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ROCK ISLAND PUBLIC LIBRARY



DEFINE

Rock Island Public Library
401 - 19th Street
Rock Island, IL 61201-8143

AUG -- 2022

For Reference
Not To Be Taken From
This Room



REIMAGINE REBUILD REFLECT REGROUP REORGANIZE

This year, we are REdefining what it means to be a Rock. Our time away from our school has led us to RE-evaluate what it means to be a student, a teacher, an athlete, a musician, and a member of the Rocky community. We are REbuilding and REgrouping after seasons lost and shortened. The students who were underclassmen when we last had a "normal year" are now expected to be our leaders. We have to step up in different ways to carry on traditions we had little time with, but wanted to be a part of so much. Despite these challenges, we are REady. We are REady to REdefine Rocky into our own visions, while still upholding the traditions our community holds so dearly. Yes, REturning is hard. However, we are eager to REdefine and REcreate our own legacies here.





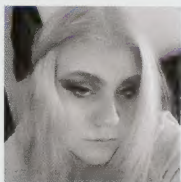
REFLECT



Here's to the first of the last. 101 weeks, 704 days, and 16,896 hours later, we have finally completed our years here at the Rock. These soon will be the good old days. We take a memory from this school every day, whether it's in a classroom with friends, through a sport or activity, or making a connection with a teacher or staff member, these will be memories we cherish. It's bittersweet, in a way. We all say how we "just want to get out of here already," but once we realize we are attending our last school dance, our last game, our last anythings, we want it to slow down. We will all go our separate ways, but at heart, we will always hold a piece of the Rock. The Class of '22 wishes everyone the best of luck, and a happy farewell. As this chapter ends in our lives, it's time to open a new one. Thankfully, with all the memories we have made here, this is the one we can reflect back on, and read over and over again. We cherished the moments we had here. As the saying goes, "Once a Rock, always a Rock! Keep it classy, Rock Island, keep it classy."

a blast from the past

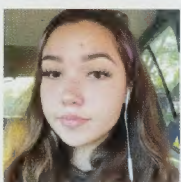
"The 80's because school was way different, and some things would be cheaper."
Kennedy Roggenbauer



"I would be born in the 70's because of Stevie Nicks."
Emma Richey



"The 90's and the 2000's because I love the style, and I want to experience the time."
Rosadalia Rocillo



"I would want to be born in the late 80's, so that I can be a teen in the 2000's, because I love the 2000's style and aesthetic."
Kara Baumunk



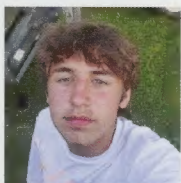
"The early 2000's are where it's at. I love that Y2K fashion is coming back, but it would be really cool to exist in its prime."
Phoebe Fuller



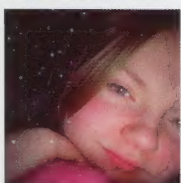
"If I could be born in any decade, I would pick the 1950's because I love the old Hollywood aesthetic and fashion of that time period."
Michelle Anglese



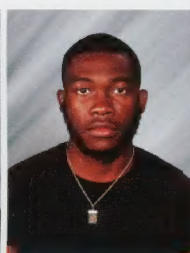
"I would want to be born in the 80's, so I can watch all the sports, and how times changed from the 80's and 90's."
Cohen Crawford



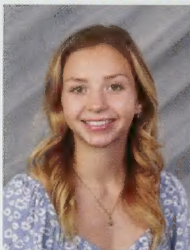
"I would want to be born in the 50's because it was an easier time. You don't have to worry about the internet, and outfits back then were cute, too."
Kiley Tallman



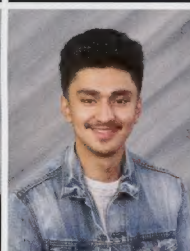
Elizabeth Aguilar
Eliza Aleman
Wiba Alimasi
Kameron Allen



Emily Allison
Isabella Allison
Rodrigo Alvarado
Maricon Anderson



Michelle Anglese
Ariana Anguiano
Symone Anthony
Jason Arroyo Vasquez



Alexa Avalos
Hamidullah Barikzay
Kara Baumunk
Zachary Beckman



Edwin Beltran
Colin Benisch
Nyambanguka Benise
Aoci Bernard



Christopher Bisubebo
Tyler Black
Abraham Blanco
Elian Blanco



Alanna Blasko
Elijah Boeye
Dameon Borders
Olivia Bowman





Charlotte Boyer
Joshua Briggs
Mackenzie Brokaw
Joseph Brune
Dayzion Bryson
Daphne Calderon

Anthony Campbell
Kelly Canning
Austin Carlson
McKenzie Casselman
Anahi Castaneda
Donavin Caston

Consuela Chapman Casco
Madison Chastain
Anthony Cimarrusti
Ava Coussens
Cohen Crawford
Kenzie Crimmins

Kaniya Davis
Milan Davis
Tyler Davis
Mallory Day
Andrew DeMarlie
Zachary DeMarlie

2022 ROCKS' MOST VALUABLE LESSONS 2022

////////////////////



"I learned to seize every moment, and take advantage of every opportunity, no matter what comes my way."
- Mallory Day



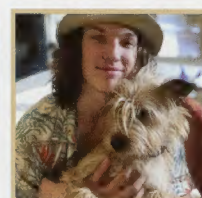
"I learned to adapt to new changes, period."
- Kennedy Roggenbauer



"I learned that Rocky isn't all that bad, like people say like. We just have a bad rep, but we are actually just like any other high school."
- Jaiden Womack



"I mean, like friends come and go, but at the end of the day, we are all family. We have all had our hardships and differences, but growing is learning."
- Farrah Kraklow



"I learned the importance of friends and being a positive influence."
- Pearce Lelonek

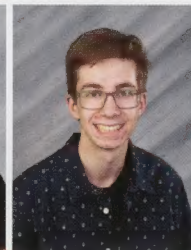


"Lots of people change, and lots of people don't, for better and for worse."
- Abraham Blanco

McCree DeVoss
Lisa Dominguez
Antwony Doss
Chase Drehman
Victor Duarte
Adolphina Ebubu



Kairi Ehlers
Madalyn Elliott
Allen Emery-Battie
Ian Empen
Cassandra Engels
Layla Eygabroad



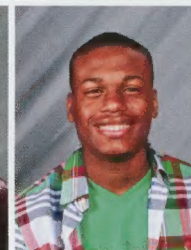
Aden Farrell
Aleric Feighner
Georgi Feigley
Rebecca Ferguson
Dylan Ferrel
Luis Flores



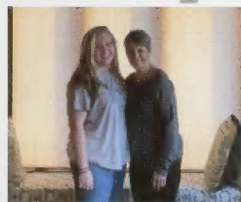
Octavia Foster
Crystal Fragoiannis
Andrew Freeman
Paige Frees
Rebecca Freiburg
Michael Fuentes



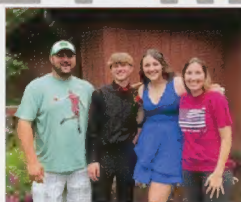
Phoebe Fuller
Jasmine Garduno
Omareon Gay
Trichelle Gay



▶▶ FAMILY REUNION



Anna Vermeire
and her
grandmother,
Eileen Schipper
(a 1962 grad).



AJ Freeman and his
sister, Kelsey Freeman
(a 2020 graduate), his
mother, Sarah
Freeman (a 2000
grad), and his father,
Andrew Freeman (a
1999 grad).



Peh Lay and
his sister, Lily
Paw (a 2021
grad).



Nyambanguka
Benise and her
sisters, Uwimana
Florence (a 2020
grad), and Mutoni
Patience (a 2018
grad).



Phoebe Fuller, her
sister, Payton Fuller
(a 2020 grad), and
her grandfather,
Paul Brooks (a 1965
grad).



Favour Noya
and her aunt,
Concilie Jules
(a 2012 grad).



Xander George
Noeli Gonzalez
Maria Gonzalez Moreno
Carli Gordon
Taleah Gray
Connor Green

Grace Gustafson
Karina Guzman
Elizabeth Hamilton
Shamya Hampton
Savannah Harding
DeVonne Harris

Ashlie Heggen
Marchello Henderson
Laci Hickenbottom
Darryl Hicks
Damian Hobert
JoAnne Hodges

Ryan Holtan
Isaiah Horice
Talayiah Horice
Eh Htoo
Hanna Hultgren
Careem Hunter

Francisca Ibarra
Octavis Isom
Aaliyah Jackson
Tyana Jackson

 **Oh, how the time flies.**



Kara Baumunk

Emma Richey

Ella Munday

Drew Jarding

Georgi Feigley

Phoebe Fuller

Sage Oviatt

Andre Jamison
Drew Jarding
Darionna Johnson
Dylan Johnson
Olivia Johnson
Trammel Johnson



Tongil Kalomba
Kezimana Karine
Zachary Karn
Katie Kavanaugh
Campbell Kelley
Marielle Kelley



Jerzee Kernan
Alex Killian
Uda Kimba
Rebecca Kirzeder
Nyota Kisubi
Jacob Kitterman



Melyni Knott
Farrah Kraklow
Mackenzie Kreger
Nathan Krug
Eh K Shaw
Eh Ku



Owen Kump
Kaw Kee La
Logan Lambrecht
Nsengiyumva Landry
Alyna Larsen



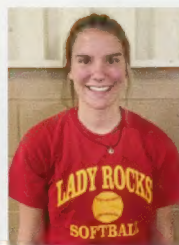
HEART OF A ROCK



"It means that I have one last chance to make an impact in the program. It also means our senior class will be the ones looked up to the most."
Emily Allison



"Being a senior athlete means a lot to me because I can be a role model for the younger athletes."
Taylor Pannell



"Being a senior athlete at Rocky is really fulfilling because I am a leader for the underclassmen in my sport. They not only look up to me on the field, but in school, too."
Gabriella Taber



"Being a senior athlete means taking the role of being a leader. You have to set a positive example for the underclassmen, so they can continue the cycle after you graduate."
Zachary Dockman



"This is my last time playing with all the people I have grown up with, so I want to have as much fun as possible, and not take it for granted."
Mackenzie Brokaw



"Being a senior athlete also means being a positive leader and role model. You are building a culture, and want the program to be as good as you left it."
Xander George



"Being a senior athlete is special to me because it is the last time I will be playing with the people I grew up with, playing against rivals, and making an impact on my city."
Amarion Nimmers



Calvin Larson
Merewenza-Patrick Lavie
Peh Lay
Pearce Lelonek
Sofia Leone
Kole Littlejohn

Gabriella Lloyd
Grace Lloyd
Jacob Long
Montserrat Lopez
Kurstin Lovell
Drake Lowry

Ryan MacDonald
Layla Mahmutovic
Kyi Man
Jenny Marceleno
Omar Marceleno-Alba
Marysa McClary

Imari McDuffy
Erin McFate
Brycen McGarry
Anden McKinney
Arianna McRae
Hunter Melody

Jose Mendez
Demetrius Meyers-Bryant
Raequan Miller
Christian Mills
Tyreek Mills



Valley Proffitt &
Taylor Pannell

Madison Chastain &
Ella Munday

Gabriella Taber &
Campbell Kelley

Mareon Anderson
& Elijah Reese

Mallory Day &
Jerzee Kernan

Bestie Glow Up

Raja Mims
Juarez Monegain
Briana Moreno
Latasia Mueller
Reponse Muhoza
Alaina Muller



Ella Munday
Montgomery Murdock
Makayla Neal
Niyogusenga Neema
Logan Newberry
Amarion Nimmers



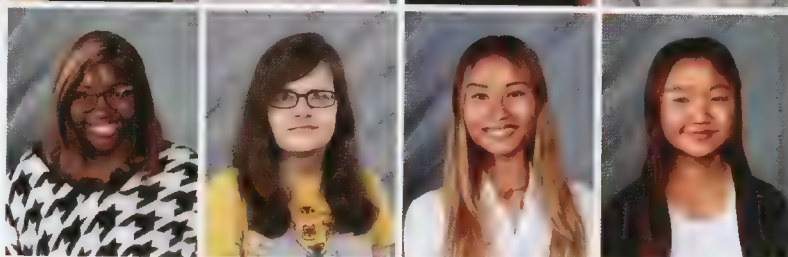
Rachel Nouvi
Favour Noya
Win Win Nwet
Aileni Nzoyitazira
Hlaing Oo
Tha Oo



Sage Oviatt
Phoenix Panick
Taylor Pannell
Kaitlyn Parker
JanNigh Parks
Traveon Parks



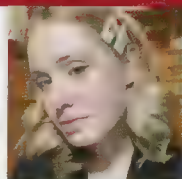
Nibitanga Pascalini
Zoe Patterson
Soe Paw
Ywa Hay Paw



SENIOR MEMORIES



"My favorite memory would be being a part of the band. It's contributed a lot into my life, and I would not have most of my friends without it."
- Elizabeth Aguilar



"Being in the spring musicals holds a special place in my heart. I have so many memories from first grade to now that helped me find my love for musical theater, and singing."
- Kara Baumunk



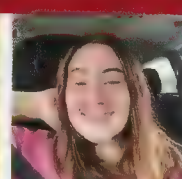
"My favorite memory at Rocky was singing at choir concerts! They are always so much fun!"
- Georgi Feigley



"My favorite memory is my freshman year when Mr. Duster started acting out a scene from the fall of the Roman Empire."
- Emma Richey



"My favorite memory is getting the opportunity to come back my senior year, and meet new people, or connect with old friends!"
- Mekayla Welsh



"My favorite memory at Rocky would have to be watching the Homecoming Court do their dances."
- Natalie VanCoillie



"My favorite memory is going to BOA in Indiana for Championships in Marching Band."
- Katie Kavanaugh



Matco Pena
Brigitte Pendeza
Jaibreonna Phillips
Madelynn Polito
Emilio Pompa
Jasmine Poston

Riley Potter
Ricoyah Price
Bailey Proffitt
Sydney Quinones
Bailey Ramirez
Kelsey Ramirez

Jaylin Randle
Aden Rasmussen
Brian Reed
Elijah Reese
Hede Reyes
Jay Richardson

Emma Richey
Benjamin Riecke
Rosadaha Rocillo
Lillian Rodriguez
Kennedy Roggenbauer
Ruby Romero Escamilla

Abbie Roos
Kasen Ross
Diego Ruiz
Daijana Rush
Kamara Sakho
Zumi Sambdman

SENIORS' PLANS AFTER GRADUATION!

22

"I plan to move to Arizona, and go to college there. A community college, and then transfer to ASU."
- Cohen Crawford

"Attending HBCU Florida Agricultural Mechanical University, and majoring in business to pursue my dreams of being a tattoo artist, and owning my own tattoo shop over time."
- Arianna McRae

"After I graduate, I plan to move out of state, and go to college to fulfill my dreams of being a nurse."
- Francisca Ibarra

"Go to the Coast Guard Academy or become a firefighter."
- Joe Brune

"I plan to become a firefighter."
- Ana Lampert



Sha Say
Talieya Schappaugh
Matthew Schriener-Hall
Hailee Schwab
Delia Schwartz
Jaquai Scott



Maddox Scott
Josephine Seams
Htoo Law La Shee
Ku Shee
Mikhaila Sherrard
Olivia Sholl



Sophia Sigler
Amaya Simpson
Briar Singleton
Owen Skinner
Caleb Smith
Aiden Snyder



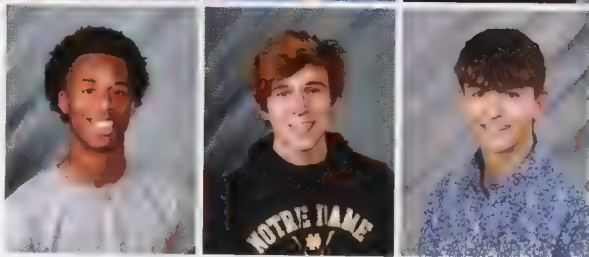
Emma Sonnenberg
Ma'Kayla Steele
Halana Stephenson
Brionjanique Stewart
Tazia Stoner-Harris
Jacob Stribling



Corey Strong
Benjamin Sweborg
Gabriella Taber
Kiley Tallman
Zaryah Tate
Nakiyah Taylor



Jameer Teague
Joseph Thompson
Kenneth Thompson



ROCKING OUR FUTURE



Phoebe
Fuller

"My dream is to move to North Dakota, and have a farm. I'd love to have all the animals in the world."



Ava
Coussens

"I hope to attend a small liberal arts school. I'm interested in pursuing speech language pathology or audiology as possible career options!"



Lexi Thompson
Shawon Tolbert
Alejandro Torres
Kayliana Trahan
Ahmareah Trevino
Roland Ullrick

Florence Umuhoza
Jayla Upton
Addison VandeWalle
Antonio Velazquez Gregory
Anna Vermeire
Jack Veronda

Najah Vesey
Paw Snow Wah
Madison Walker
Tori Walker
James Webb
Jaylynn Weistart

Mekayla Welsh
Zane White-Edgington
Cori Williams
Terrance Williams
Daisha Willis
Evan Willis

Nyota Wilondja
Nywe Nywe Win
Zaw Win
Tyler Wolf
Jaiden Womack
James Wulgaert

Brenna Yoder
Fatuma Yondo
Aaron York
Adrian Zetina



Cohen
Crawford

"I plan to go to college at Arizona State University. I plan to major in English, and minor in professional writing, because I want to become a writer when I'm older."



Madison
Walker

"I plan to go to the University of Illinois Chicago (UIC), and major in accounting, like my dad."



Lexi
Thompson

"I plan to go to college, and be in the medical field, and do something in sports medicine, along with playing volleyball."



Sage
Oviatt

"I want to go to York University to major in midwifery, then come back to the US, and open my own practice."

Pebbles To Rocks



Taylor Pannell



Amarion Nimmers



Kenzie Grimmins



Sydney Quinones



Careem Hunter



Kyi Man



Mateo Pena



Campbell Kelley



Jerzee Kernan



Jaylin Randle



Zack Beckman



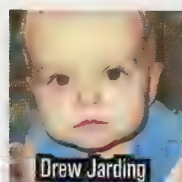
Ella Munday



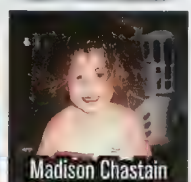
Jacob Rohwer



Brigitte Pendeza



Drew Jarding



Madison Chastain



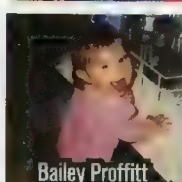
Kara Baumunk



AJ Freeman



Elijah Boeye



Bailey Proffitt



Eliza Aleman



Tyler Black



Isabella Allison



Jayla Upton



Jacob Stribling



Tatiana Carapia

Class of 2022

SENIOR SAYINGS

"I hope you become addicted to saying things and having them matter to someone."
- Jenna Hunterson, Waitress

Phoebe Fuller



"They say you are what you eat, but I don't remember eating GOAT."

Elijah Boeye



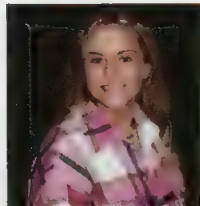
"There's always a bit of nerves that come with expectations and new situations."
- Brendon Urie

Kara Baumumk



"This was nothing like High School Musical..."

Taylor Pannell



"I fear not the man who has practiced 10,000 kicks once, but I fear the man who has practiced the one kick 10,000 times."
- Bruce Lee

Peh Lay



"We did it, Joe"

Mallory Day



"We all have dreams. In order to make the dream come into reality, it takes an awful lot of determination, dedication, self discipline, and effort."
- Jesse Owens

Brian Reed



"Stressing about it doesn't change the outcome."

Bailey Proffitt



"The only time I set the bar low is for limbo."
- Michael Scott

Grace Gustafson



"Life is never what you planned. Life is moments you can't understand."
- Mendel, Falsettos
Layla Eygabroad



"No matter the color of your skin or the language you speak, we all bleed the same color at the end of the day."

Madison Chastain



"Why catch flies with honey when you can catch more honeys being fly?"

Marieon Anderson



"The right path is not the easiest one."

Kennedy Roggenbauer



"I wish somebody would've told me, some day, these will be the good old days."
- Kesha

Soe Paw



"Is this also due at 11:59?"

Kyi Man



"Be a light."

Eliza Aleman



"Build your own dreams, or some else will hire you to build theirs."

Uda Kimba



"Every minute you're angry, you miss 60 seconds of happiness."

Jacob Rohwer



"Just here for the vibes."

Antwony Doss



"Let your dreams be bigger than your fears, your actions louder than your words, and your faith stronger than your feelings."

Aoci Bernard



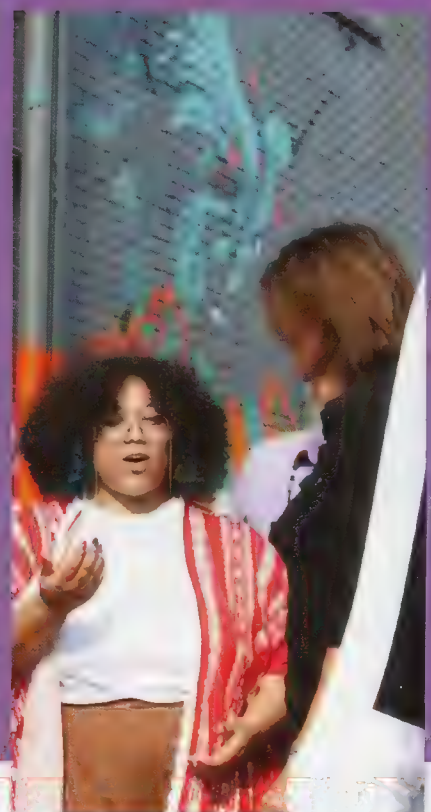
"To you, I may just be a star, but to me, you're my whole world."

Sage Oviatt





RESUME

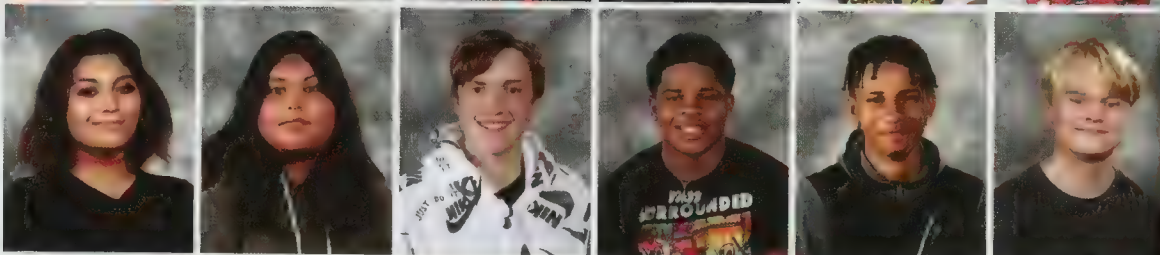


It is time to resume our high school years after not being able to finish our freshman year at school, and having a difficult sophomore year, where some of us were in school, and some stayed home. From sports resuming to close to what is considered normal, to being in the classroom again, everyone is coming back together, and ready to take on the year. There are many Rocky traditions and activities we get to experience for the first time, like driving to school every day, playing on a varsity team, getting a car, being an upperclassman, and even taking the SAT, that we look forward to this year. As upperclassmen, we are so excited to continue our Rocky journey. In the next two years, we need to plan our futures, and figure out what paths we want to take in life beyond the Rock. Next year is our senior year, and we know that time will go by so fast. Our time here really is flying by, and we are so happy to resume our days of actually being here at Rock Island High School.

Maryrose Abuke
Nicholas Adams
Connor Adner
Jesus Alba
Jauntae Allen
Mauriana Almore



Zoe Alturas
Jasmin Alva-Perez
Ashton Anderson
Dameon Anderson
Davian Anderson
Julian Anderson



Mariah Anderson
Maryionce Anderson
Peyton Anderson
Daxon Ashpaugh
Aimerance Askeji
Cameron Atkinson



Natalie Avila
Naabwe Babocha
Braeden Baker
Dominic Baker
Tyler Barbee
Anjilika Barikzay



Cade Barnes
Marissa Barnum
Sergio Barrientos
Aleo Battie
Samuel Baugous



I Am

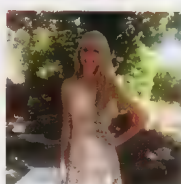
"If people really knew me, they'd know that I am a huge Marvel nerd."

Alysa Braud



"If people really knew me, they'd know that I love sports and history."

Mackenzie Meirhaeghe



"If people knew me, they'd know that I overthink a lot."

Nee Pwe



"If people really knew me, they'd know that I love everything photography."

Aidan Henderson



"If people really knew me, they'd know that I procrastinate really badly."

Cristee Paw



"If people really knew me, they'd know that I live life like a fairytale."

Sentia Nishimwe



Erriea Bea
Jace Bennett
Ethan Bergheger
Noah Bird
Loiyan
Blamah-Jackson
James Blew

Jayden Bomelyn
Emilee Borkhardt
Jake Brandt
Alysa Braud
Quonterion Brooks
Maliyah Brose

Nicolas Brown
Michael Brummit
Zenniphyr Bullock
Quinci Bumgarner
Javiah Butler
Misa Byobe

Aniae Carapia
MaKylie Carey
Denise Carr
Edgar Carrillo
Alexis Carroll
Cesar Casco



INSPIRING ART

the QC & DC

Riley Jones earned a unique way to leave their mark on the QC this year, and to show off their talents as an artist. Jones' piece, "Black Pride", was selected by Congresswoman Chen Bustos as the winner of a Congressional art competition, and was then selected to become a mural downtown Rock Island.

Jones has always been an artist. "Like most people, I drew for fun as a toddler, doodling unrecognizable renditions of different animals, people, or anything that came to mind. I like to tell people I just never stopped doing that. Plenty of kids reach a point where they lose interest in drawing, but I never did. I kept making up different ideas, and scratching them down on paper. Years went by, and I had improved, but I was nowhere near good. Around 8th grade is when I finally reached a point in which I was unhappy with my progress as an artist. From then on, whenever I drew, it was in an attempt to get better. My improvement wasn't rapid, but it was noticeable. I've kept at it ever since," they explained. This drive for improvement led them to their biggest opportunity yet.

During the summer of 2020, they created an emotional piece as a way to speak on the Black Lives Matter Movement, entitled "Black Pride". Later in the year, they were notified of a Congressional art competition held by Congresswoman Bustos. Hesitant, they applied, not thinking they had a chance of winning. In fact, they had forgotten about the competition, until one day when they got a phone call from Congresswoman Bustos, stating that they had won. "Other than waiting to hear when I fly out to Washington, and partaking in a couple of interviews, there was nothing else to the win. To my surprise, not long after my achievement, my dad brought me an opportunity. The city was interested in placing my piece on a building in downtown Rock Island. After saying yes, the placement was arranged, and two mural artists were hired to help in the process," Jones explained. Although Jones was excited, it also brought a set of new challenges that they were eager to take on. They had never worked on a mural before, let alone know the basic techniques for spray painting. With the help of two professionals, they were able to pick up the basics of the medium, and finish the mural in a week's time. "Art is anything you want it to be. Art comes in a myriad of different forms, and there's no one way to describe it. I live under the belief that if you look at something and think it's art, it has every right to be art. I choose to represent my own ability in a classic sense of paper to pencil. The process is fun for me. I do it for enjoyment, and I do it because I like seeing an idea I had exist in a physical form- though mostly I draw because it's what I grew up doing- a habit of sorts," Jones said.



Angel Castaneda
Saul Castaneda
Maricela Churchill
Sky Ciesielczyk
Alexia Clark
Miranda Clark



Branden Colvin
Viviana Contreras-Villagomez
Madison Cook
Thomas Cook
Devin Cookson
Chloe Cooper



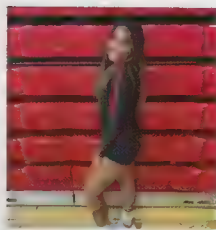
Jasmine Coveyow Miller
Makalia Crawford
Edie Crayne
Jaysha Cribb
Nevach Robinson
Cunningham
Carter Cupp



Nhi Dang
Brenden Davis-Foutch
Law Dee
Evan DeFauw
Mariela DeMeyer
Stevie Dempsey

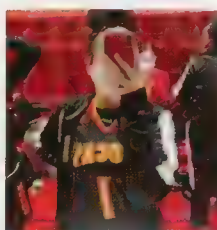


JUNIORS SUITING UP FOR VARSITY



"It's fun, and pretty competitive. I love playing with everyone."

Sienna Mikaio



"It is an honor. I've been playing basketball for my whole life with the same team, and the team we have this year is going to be great! I think playing Varsity will challenge myself to be the greatest."

Mariyah McQueen



"It's exciting, and it gives me a chance to show any potential I have. I feel like entering a new chapter of my life."

Lucas Hansen



"I'm glad to be back with the team, and help the underclassmen. I enjoy the challenge, and being able to show my potential."

Kaiya McKinley



"This year is a whole different story. It's pretty awesome to be able to start Varsity, and contribute to the team."

John Rohwer



"I enjoy it a lot. The competition is harder, which helps me get better!"

Kayla Rice



Lilyana DeRudder
Brie Dickinson
Ava Dietz
Stephen Dillender
Bridget Duncan
JoZiah Edwards

Happy Elias
Alexis Engels
Morgan Engholm
Caitlin Eves
Jullian Fabian
Aidan Fiers

Norah Finley
Kendrick Freeman
Timothy Fulscher
Lauren Gant
Diana Garcia
Edmund Garcia

Marcela Garcia
Caden Garrison
Eh Gay
Kameron Gay
Kershaun Gay
Nay Gay

The Life with Pets



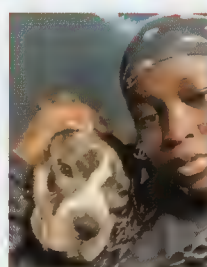
"The weirdest thing about my cat is he likes the water."
Eddie Crayne



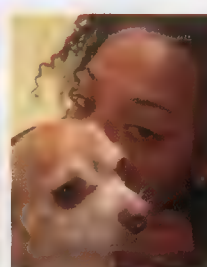
"My dog walks into chairs on purpose."
Kayla Rice



"My dog watches television."
Makayla Crawford



"He always lays on his back, with his feet in the air, when he sleeps."
Ayen Malual

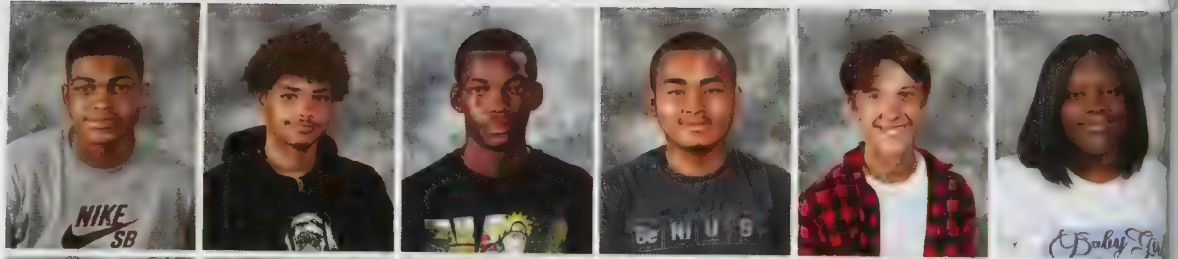


"She barks at herself whenever she passes a mirror."
Nevaeh Cunningham



"He loves Baja Blast freezes."
Angeliq Medrano

Nekeyhl Gay
Tevin Gay
Mizero Gerald
For Give
Nathaniel Gottcent
Shanyah Graham



Madison Greenwood
Vaida Gunasheva
Corbin Gustafson
Connie Gutierrez
Kyle Guy
Yasmine Hafdi



Landon Hamilton
Nina Hamilton
Brennan Hampton
Secret Hampton
Ella Hansen
Lucas Hansen



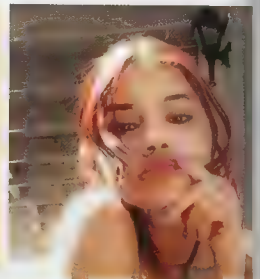
Taleigha Hansen
Andrew Harker
Kiley Harrell
Shawn Harrison
Ali Hatem
Abigail Hauskins



"All American because it's very interesting, and it also teaches life lessons."
- Mariyah McQueen



"I love to watch Yellowstone because I think it would be cool to be a rancher."
- Bryce Lowry



"New Girl or Money Heist because something new always happens in every episode, so it just keeps me engaged and interested in the show."
- Taleigha Hansen



"American Horror Story because I love that each season is a completely different story."
- Mari Churchill



"New Girl because everyone is funny."
- Aniae Carapia





Riley Hawotte
DeMarco Hearn
Eviah Hearn
Bailey Hecker
Lynzie Heggen
Sebastian Hemphull

Aidan Henderson
Jennifer Henderson
Nihyeva Henderson
Nathan Hendrickx
Mahiela Hewitt-Bolden
Elayisha Hinton

Andrea Hodonou
Flora Holcomb
Spencer Holliday
Frank Holmes
McKenzie Houston
Baw Htoo

Lay Htoo
New Year Htoo
November Htoo
Paw She Htoo
Kyleigh Hughes
Malachi Jackson

WELCOME to the HIGHLIGHT ZONE



"Discovering myself has had a big impact on me. Branching out of my comfort zone, and finding myself, as a person, was a big goal for me to achieve."

Natalee Smith, 11



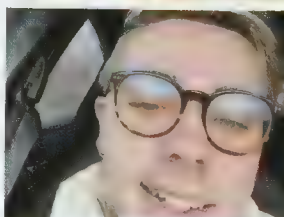
"First semester, 5th period with Mrs. Trimble. She makes the class enjoyable, makes her classroom a place where students can be themselves, and is a teacher that tries her best."

MacKenzie Houston, 11



"Scoring 7 touch downs, and having the ability to say I'm the current holder of the rushing yard record."

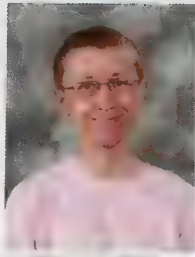
Quonterrian Brooks, 11



"Taking pictures at the game has always been fun. Being up close, and in the action with a good front row seat was a nice bonus, too."

Aidan Henderson, 11

Dylan James
Ta'Miah Jamison
Emma Jasper
Niyitunga Jeanvier
Gage Johnson
Kaylee Johnson



Riley Jones
Antonio Jones-Kirk
Kaiden Karzin
Mary Keen
Noah Keever
Jacob Kern



Di Sae Khu
Gilbert Kibingila
Danea Kimmins
Jacob Kirk
Klae Kpor
Jocelyn Larsen



Gabriel Lavino
Nathan Lee
Soe Ler
Ntiebuwayo Laya
Niyubuntu Lionel



LEADERS IN AVID





Alexandria Lipe
Jazmin Lopez
Juanita Lopez
Rafael Lopez



Ninel Lopez Favela
Bryce Lowry
Savannah Lundquist
Evan Lyon



Madelyn Maidak
Victorina Maindo
Ayen Malual
Niang Man

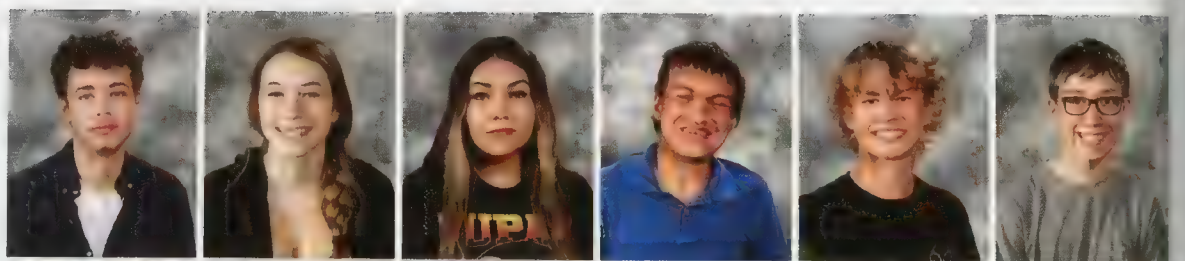


Kennedy Maombi
Hector
Marceleno-Robles
Steven Marquez
Eian Marshall

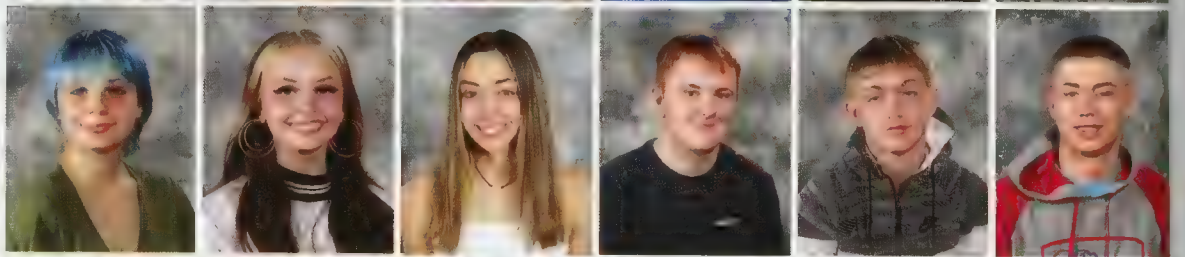


2023

Payton Marshall
Jenavieve Martel
Alexia Martinez
Kyle Mata
Kyle Matherly
Keller Mathews



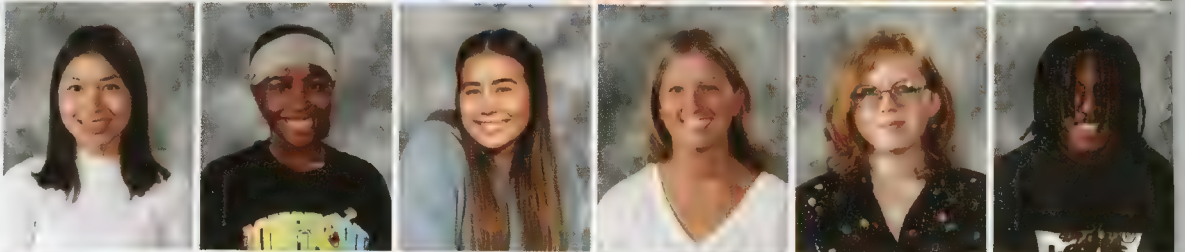
Madalynn Maxey
Alexis McClay
Abbie McCrady
Sullivan McDaniel
David McDonald
Bryton McGlasson



Israel McGowan
Kaiya McKinley
Noah McMeekan
Mariyah McQueen
Mackenzie
Meirhaeghe
Ricardo Mendoza



Montzerrat Meza-Pena
Navach Middlebrook
Sienna Mikaio
Camryn Milefchik
Kassandra Miller
LaJaden Miller



Abby Mills
Olivia Mitchell
Shyaunna Mitchell
Zayne Mlekush
Kaden Moeding
Hser Ner Moo



MOVING ON UP

Rocky's Juniors explain what it is like to FINALLY be upperclassmen.



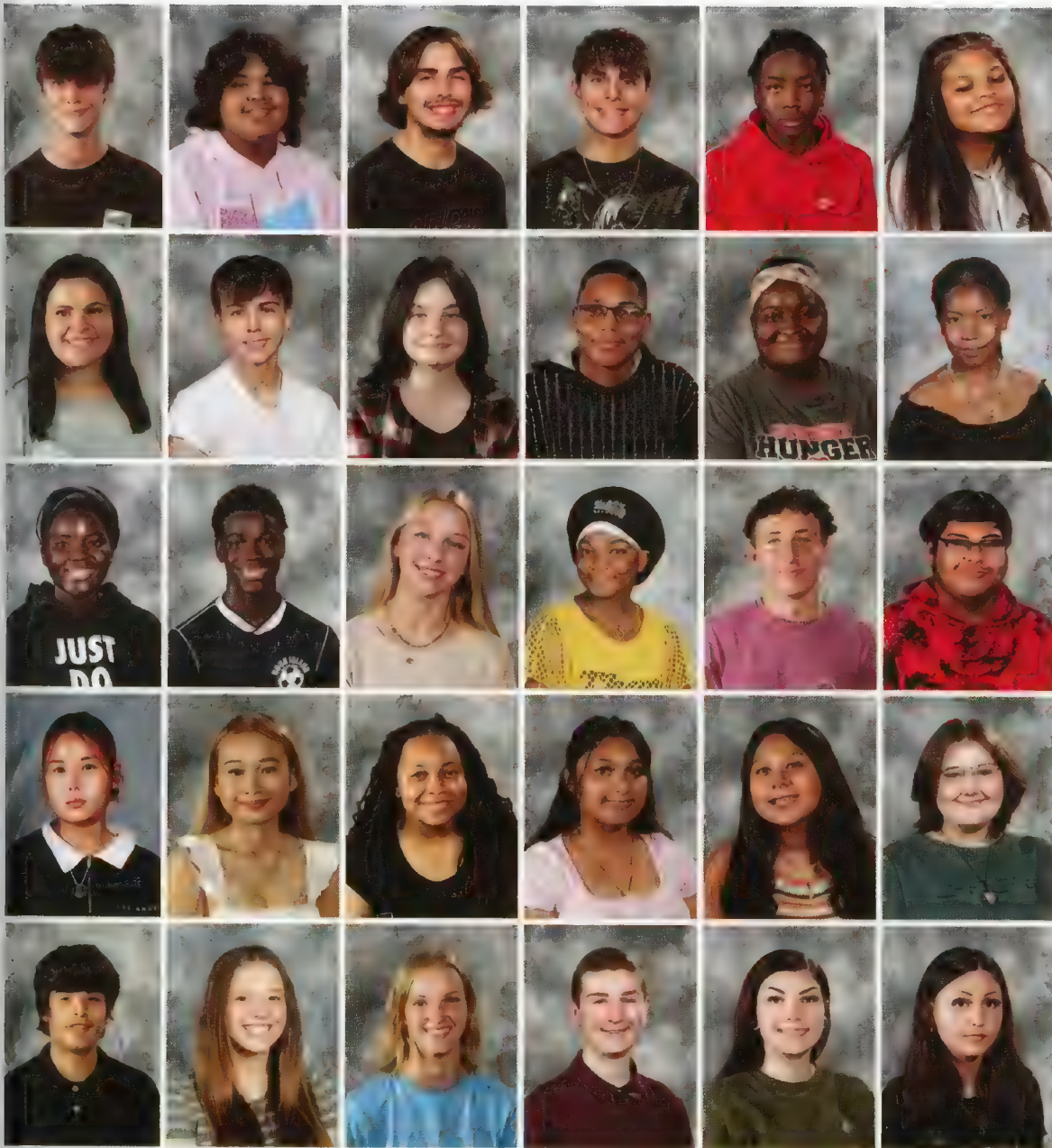
Kaiya
McKinley

"It's not nearly as stressful trying to figure out where to go, and to be familiar with all of the sports and extracurriculars. It's nice to be able to drive, and be involved in so many aspects around the school. We are one step closer to graduation, and in control of our high school years."



Alexis
Carroll

"It stayed the same for me, but now I get to do the fun things that upperclassmen do."



Logan Moore
Dustin Moreno
Jaron Morris
Logan Morris
Markell Morrison
Mariah Mowery

Emily Myers
Cooper Nelson
Molly Nesseler
Aaron Nettles
Nelie Ninahazwe
Sentia Nishimwe

Aline Niyogusenga
Samuel Niyonkuru
Ella Nolan
Suzana Nyasa
Benjamin Oliver
Alejandro Pantoja

Cristee Paw
Hsa Klee Paw
Daysia Peniston
Maria Perez
Jannet Perez-Vazquez
Grace Phares

Fernando Pizano
Kaylee Plohr
Natalie Pothoven
Brandon Poulos
Charlea Pressly
Eva Pulfrey



Kayla
Rice

"I like it. I feel even more involved I feel like I can be such a great and positive leader on the underclassmen by making sure they feel involved, as well."



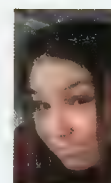
Quinci
Bumgarner

"It's an odd feeling. It feels like I was just a freshman last year. Time flies by so fast, but it's nice knowing most of the people in the building."



Denise
Carr

"Being an upperclassman feels the same as the past years. We are just older, and the work is more stressful."



Mari
Churchill

"It feels, honestly, scary. My high school experience is just flying by."

Nee Pwe
Gavin Quinones
Angel Ralston
Juliauna Raymond
Izabelle Redman
Owen Reid



Brayden Reinhardt
Lucas Rettig
Yasenyia Reyes
Kayla Rice
Tristian
Richardson-Cole
Isaiah Richey



Johary
Rivera Martinez
Danee' Robinson
Jason Rockhold
Nehemiah Rodriguez
Rajet Rodriguez
Isabelle Roelens



John Rohwer
Madison Rosenthal
Felix Ross-Cspedes
Lucas Rossi
Jude Rowell
Mykia Rudolph



● "Preview Night is a great tradition because people get to see how much work really goes into putting a show on the field. You don't get a true perspective of how much hard work it takes, and how organized you have to be to put on a great performance until you're actually down on the field, marching with us. I love having people follow me around because they get to see what we do from our point of view, and I think they get a whole new appreciation for it."
- Keller Mathews

● "Having the opportunity to have a parent, sibling, or friend march behind you is one of great emotion. When you participate, not only are you giving someone the opportunity to be in your shoes, but you're also giving yourself the opportunity to make memories with family and friends, and getting to experience a show with them. It makes me feel special to be able to have someone march behind me."
- Zenniphyr Bullock

● "Having someone follow me around on the field, as we do our show, is something that I always look forward to, because I get to exhibit my point of view during our performance. Especially this year, because I got to give my brother a little tour of our show, as I made my way across the field, singing and acting. It's an experience that the audience doesn't get often, and that's why it's so special."
- Julian Anderson



Evan Ruiz
Curtis Ryan
Aneesa Saldivar



Nathan Schinckel
Connor Schweickhardt
Joshua Scott



Xavier Seibel
Anette Serrato-Rivera
Petro Shabani



Jaquez Smith
Natalee Smith
Quentin Smith



Xavier Smith
Ethan Smithson
Jennah Smock



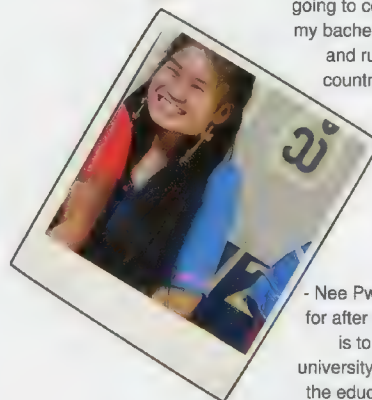
Christ Hay Soe
Eh Ler Soe

Prepped

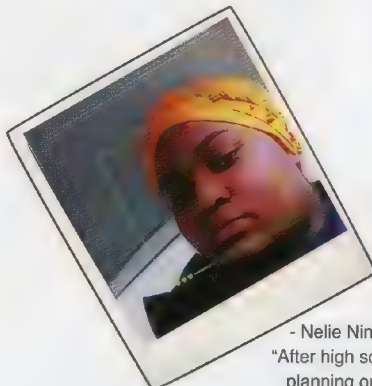
planned



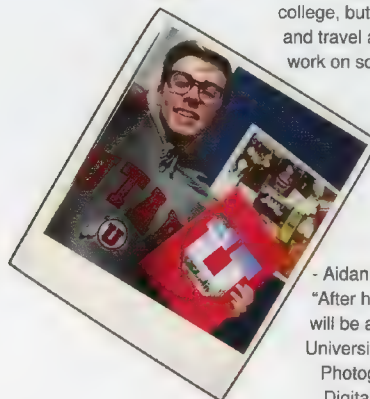
- Mackenzie Meirhaeghe: "After high school, I plan on going to college to get my bachelors degree, and run cross country/track."



- Nee Pwe: "My plan for after high school is to go to a university, probably in the education field."



- Nelie Ninahazwe: "After high school, I was planning on going to college, but I want to try and travel abroad, and work on somethings."



- Aidan Henderson: "After high school, I will be attending the University of Utah for Photography and Digital Imaging."

Moo Doh Soe
Mu K Paw Soe
Da'Niya Staniel
Ava Stonehouse
Morgan Stoneking
Emma Stout



Seth Strandberg
Lewis Street
K'mwee Su
Kadon Svec
Jesse Swisher
Darviae Tate



Shar Mu Taw
Eden Taylor
Makenzie Terry
Tanasia Thomas
Heaven
Thomas-Brown
Evan Thompson



Darius Tongo
Kierian Trahan
Ashton Unley
Dariell Upchurch
Gentille Uwamahoro
Godelive Uwezo



WORKING UP THE SWEET



"Practice is key. Practice is going to take you a lot farther than you think."
Corbin Gustafson



"Just stay true to yourself. Don't let anyone tell you what you can and cannot do. Do what you do best."
Makenzie Terry



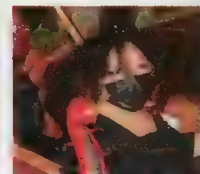
"Practice is key to the class, and that it's a super fun class, and they will have a great time in the class."
Jordan Murray



"Even though, sometimes, it's hard to learn the music, you just gotta keep practicing."
Isabelle Roelens



"It's an amazing experience. Everyone is really nice and welcoming. Remember that the one way to get better is to practice. I promise you it will pay off, even if it doesn't feel like it in the moment. Mrs. Benson is an amazing teacher, who works really hard to make her class fun. She cares about her students, and pays attention. You're able to really bond and joke, while still getting things done, and learning. It's a really fun class, overall."
Kassandra Miller



"You're never as awful as you think you are, and even so, it's important to not be the greatest, and to improve. As obnoxious as it may seem, confidence in your playing will take you a long way."
Riley Jones



Justin VanRycke
Isabel Varela
Cristian Velasco
Fred Venable
Annuarite Venansia
Halie Viernow

Avery Voigt
Haley Waffle
Khu Paw Wah
Kylee Whan
Da'Niveona White
Olivia Wiese

Ashanti Williams
John Williamson
Triston Willoughby
Tierra Winters Bland
Kaden Witt
Amiyah Woods

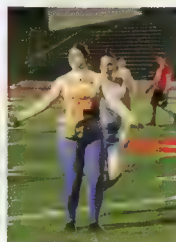
DesMond Woodson
Audryanna
Woods-Stewart
Annastasia Wright
Kimora Wright
Maxwell Zahner
Joshua Zetina

juniors clock in

[to the workforce]



Law Wah Dee
"Lemon Grass Cafe.
My favorite thing
about being there is
how they treat me."



Emilee Borkhardt
"I work in the meat
department at
Hy-Vee. My favorite
thing is the people I
work with."



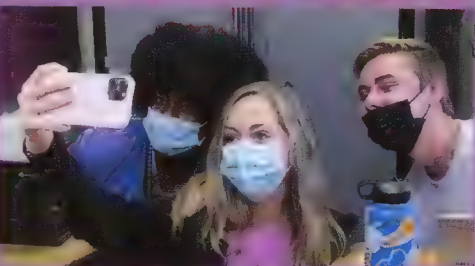
Haley Waffle
"B-dubs, and I like
the vibe."

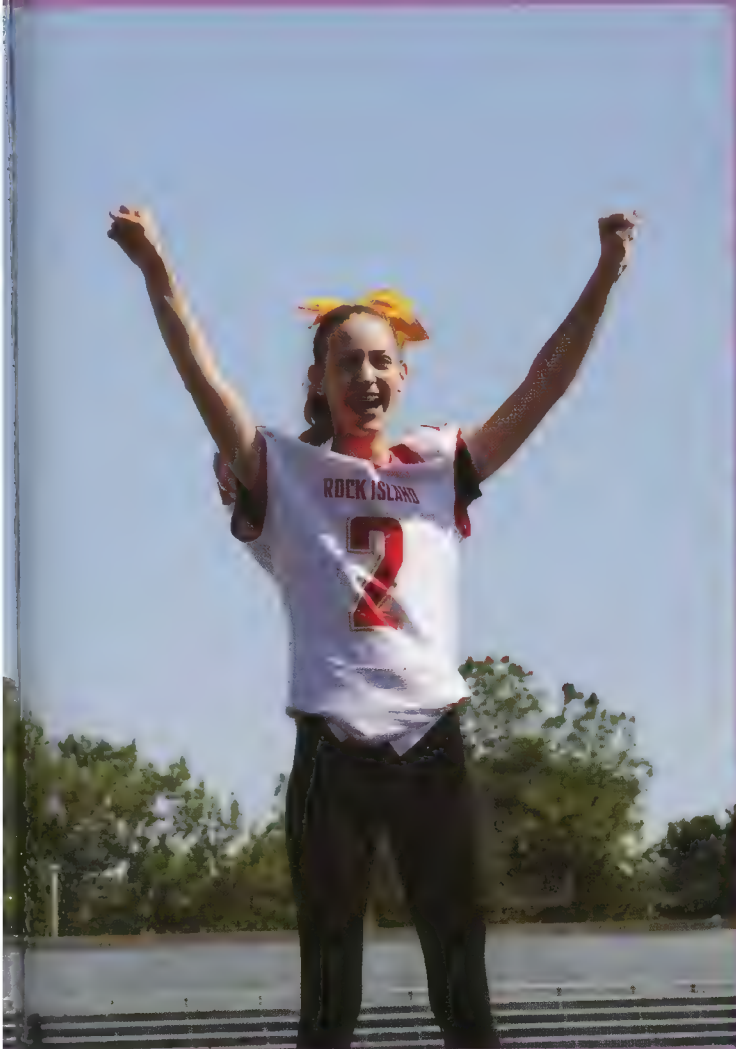


Mariela DeMeyer
"I work at Target. I
really like my job
because the
environment is
positive, and my co-
workers make me
laugh."



Kyleigh Hughes
"Bowlyou's in Milan.
My favorite thing
about my job is
having my regulars,
whether it's coffee,
food, or ice cream.
They can easily
make your day when
they see you."





CLASS
OF
2023





READJUST



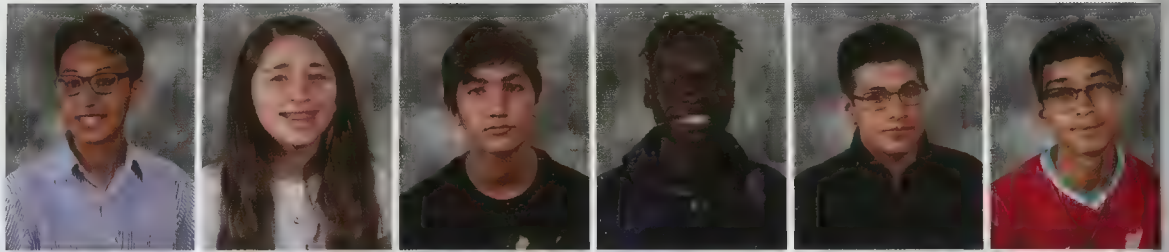
What should be our year to REturn to the Rock is the first year at the school for some of us, sophomores. While we all were freshmen last year, only some of us REturned for in person learning during the second half of our freshman year, with others opting to stay home to continue remote learning until the summer.

So, for us, this year is one of REadjusting. We are REadjusting to a place that should be very familiar to us, but instead, is still new.

However, we know that the Rock will become the familiar ground for us, like it is to our upperclassmen. We are getting involved in sports and clubs, much more than we had the chance to last year. We navigate the halls, and find our way to our actual classrooms, and figure out what it means to be a high school student again.

While this is a year of REadjustment, it's a year we know we can take on, and thrive in.

Salvador Abarca
Giselle Aceviz
Rasul Ahmed
Ntinyegezwa Aidan
Jose Alba
Gabriel Albarrran



Mohammed Al
Fahad
Maryam Alhamdian
Ali Al Janabi
Israa Al Janabi
Joseph Allen
Kyra Allen



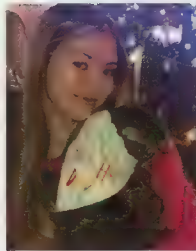
Brendon Anderson
Brenna Anderson
Camoryae Anderson
Jacobian Anderson
Shakeada Anderson
Romaryion
Armstrong



Markeisha Atwater
Marquise Atwater
Fidelia Awoudi
David Axnix
Simia Ayers
Alyssa Balandran



Delaney Barbee
Hailey Becker
Presley Behrens
Mpawenimana Bella
Isabella Belshause



Alayna and her cat,
Meredith.

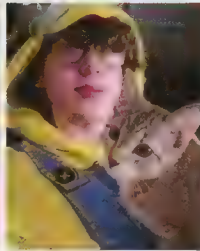


Alayna McKinley



Halle and her dog, Roxie.

Halle Bohh



Jesse and his cat, Hazel.

Jesse Rockhold



FRIENDS
FUR-EVER



Braedyn Bennett
Jackson Bennett
Andres Benton
Daiana Biswell
Alexander Bitz
Halle Bobb

Addison Bomelyn
Kal Boswell
Andrew Bourdeaux
Mina Boyer
Harrison Braddy
Patrick Bradley

Jett Brandt
Nininahazwe Brigitte
Aidan Brokaw
Michael Brose
Chris Brown
Jonathan Brown

Joseph Brown
Joshua Brown
Kylen Brozovich
Niyongabo Bucumi
Sabrina Bufford
Payten Bunch

Karine Burnett
Javen Butler
Alexis Buzea
Veronica Caballero
Avontez Campbell
Jayden Caraveo

Stellar Sophomores Take On

Two Orchestras

Sophomores Haley Gruner and Will Morris participate in both the Concert and Chamber Orchestras here at RIHS, but this happened half way through the year. Orchestra director Katie Benson saw "The great leaders they had become in our Concert Orchestra violin sections," and after witnessing their excellence, Benson knew they deserved a challenge. "Both Haley and Will are enthusiastic musicians- desiring to get better at their craft all the time, and working toward this goal."

Gruner and Morris are happy to be able to participate in the two orchestras. "Mrs. Benson really wanted me to be in both Chamber and Concert. It's really fun, and I love how advanced Chamber is, but Concert is also very fun because of the friends I have in it," Gruner explains. Morris shares the same ideas, saying, "I'm more excited to get better, and to learn new things in Chamber, and to meet new people."

Being selected to participate in both orchestras is an honor, and one that they worked hard for. Benson attests to this, stating, "I have been encouraged by their great attitudes, and work ethic, and look forward to the results of how they have impacted those around them. I think Haley and Will are learning different skills in each group- how to be a leader in Concert, and how to be an excellent member of the section in Chamber. I believe Haley and Will lead by example, and are inspiring our younger musicians to strive to play with more excellence."

These sophomores will continue to be leaders, and portray that hard work brings honorable rewards.



Jayda Carlin
Ethan Carls
Alexander Carnahan
Milijiah Carpenter
Angel Carranza
Delaney Carroll



Marley Casselman
Keyla Castaneda
Kiefer Chandler
Neiman
Childs-Johnson
Simon Chino
Elena Cisneros



Hunter Coakley
Robvasha Coleman
Logan Collins
Leah Conner
Lailony Cook
Matthew Coon



Miyayla Cooper
Samuel Crandall
Cesar Cruz-Aguilera
Yasmin Cuellar
Carmelo
Cunningham
Nickolus
Cunningham



Miya Davis
Eh L Day
Alexander Dee
Mia DelaRosa
Amelia Dennis
Haiven Desadier



Matthew Coon
"It is a safe, fun place, where I can learn to play my instrument, or even learn how to professionally play for my future."



Aiden Frantz
"Being able to play my violin."



Daryn Untiedt
"It's a great experience, but mostly, I like doing it. It's been pretty fun, and the trips are amazing."



Mary Stackdale
"I love a lot of things about Orchestra! But one thing that really makes it one of my favorite classes is the teachers and other students! We all have so much fun every day!"

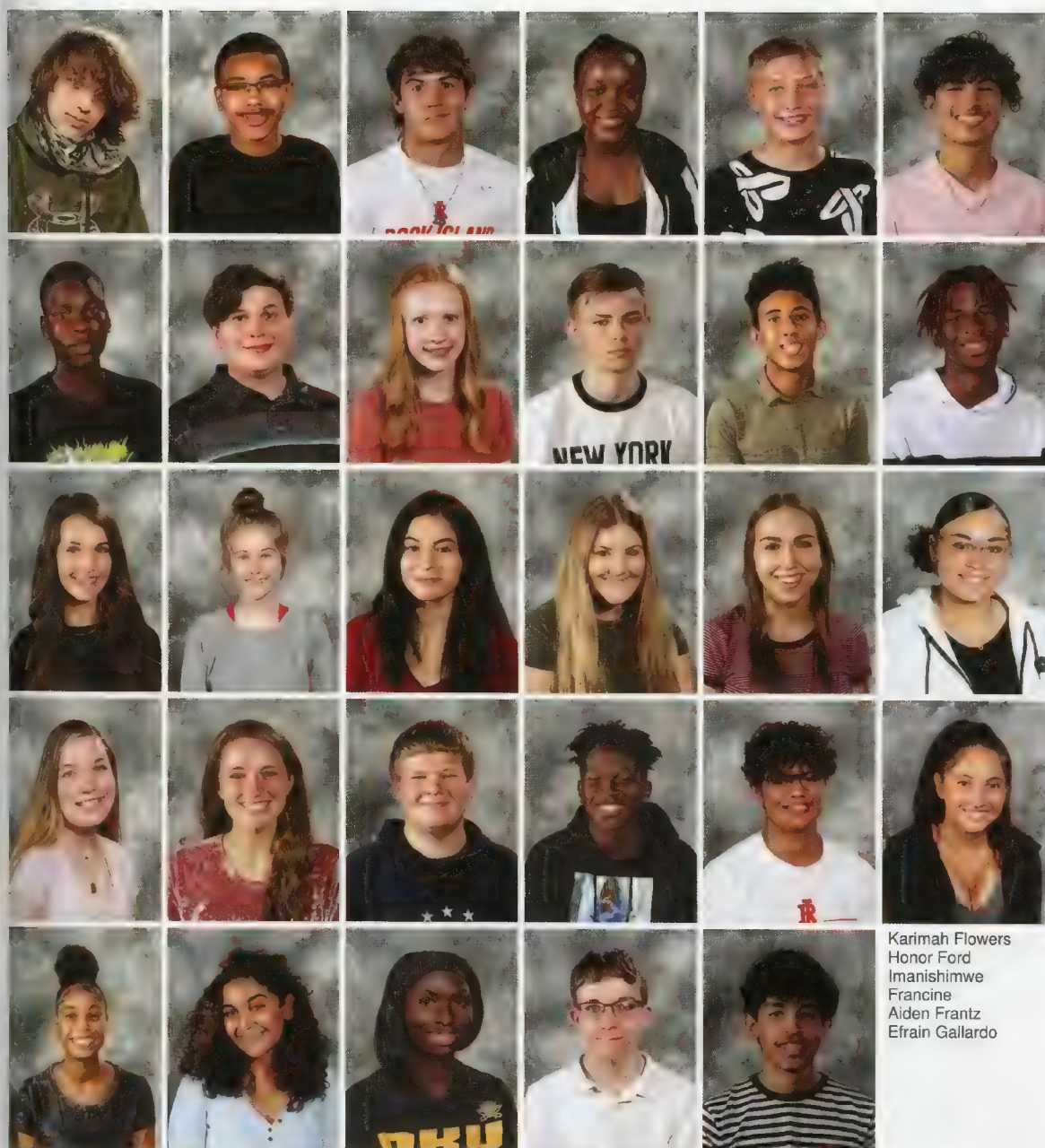


Ely Perez
"I like making new friends, and being able to laugh, and have fun in class."



Jackson Bennett
"The thing I like most is how much it feels like a family in Orchestra. Through the ups, downs, good and bad, everyone is there for each other."

MUSIC
MEMORIES



Riley DeVoss
Avery Dickens
Conner Dilulio
Ntiruvakure Dinye
Zaidyn Dodd
Junior Dominguez

Irakoze Dorcas
Zachery Draper
Josephine Driskill
Xavier Duster
Dominick
Eckmann-Allred
Jadyn Edwards

Corbyn Ellis
Mackenzie Elsey
Maria
Escamilla-Garcia
Alaina Esposito
Eva Essman
Nevaeh Faison

Mackenzie Farrance
Lucette Feigley
Evan Ferkel
Niyogushima Fiston
Avery Flactiff
Liliana Flores-Torres

Karimah Flowers
Honor Ford
Imanishimwe
Francine
Aiden Frantz
Efrain Gallardo

SOPHOMORES join AVID



Julian Gaona
 Estevan Garcia
 Natalia Garcia
 Gavin Gasper
 Jade Gasper
 Angelo Gay



Drake Gean
 Isabel Gomez
 Gabriella Gonzalez
 Amiyah Govain
 Dar'Terius Grady
 Gabrielle Grandberry



Taylor Grass
 Nayeli Graves
 Dillon Gray
 Justice Gregory
 LaMark Griffith
 Lauren Groene



Haley Gruner
 Alex Grypp
 Madjid Gunashev
 Eli Gustafson
 Luke Gustafson
 Isaiah Gutierrez



Sanaa Hampton
 Owen Hansen
 Sarah Harvey
 Zafirah Hassan
 Hassan Hatem
 Alexis Hayes



SOPHOMORE ROCKS





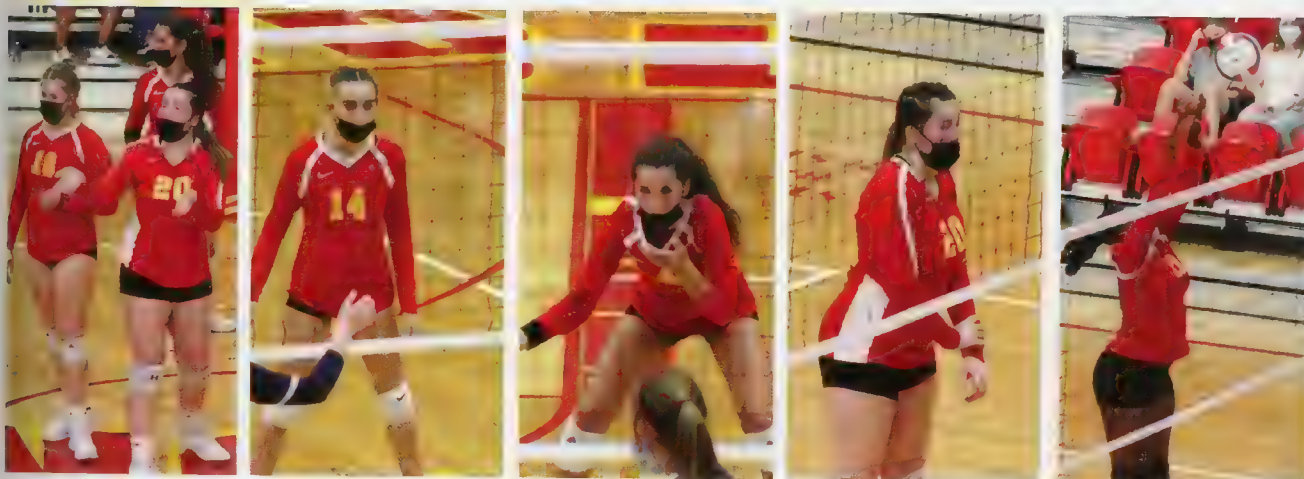
Lillian Hayes
Madelynn Hayes
Michael Hays
Ku He
Luis Hernandez
Courtellus Hicks

Ja'Marius Higgins
Abigail Hillyer
Blythe Hinton
Roxanne Hobert
Thomas Honeycutt
O-Mirrah Horne

Jessamine
Hounkpati
Talia Houston
Gabriella Howard
Wah Hsee
Dah Gay Htoo
Hae Peh Htoo

Say Htoo
Jaydon Hudson
Austin Huff
Emily Hummel
Derrick Jabbar
Alexander Jackson

STUDENTS OF THE YEAR



Daniel Jackson
Dezmond Jackson
Heaven Jackson
Mark Jackson
Marnaysha Jackson
Sean-Anthony
Jackson



Napoleon Jackson
Harris
Kaitlyn Jacoby
Dominic James
Terrianna Jamison
Jose Jaramillo
Tryston Jared



Ali Jasim
Zawadi Jeanine
Richard Jett
Julian Jimenez
Mateo Jimenez
Jeniah Johnson



Mahogani Johnson
Brady Johnston
Devyn Jones
Jada Jones
Kaitlyn Jones
Mackenzie Jones



Deborah Kalonda
Dajanique Kelley
Jeremiah Kennedy
Andrew Kerno
Jayden Kerr
Joy Kitterman



→ *Sophomores on Stage*





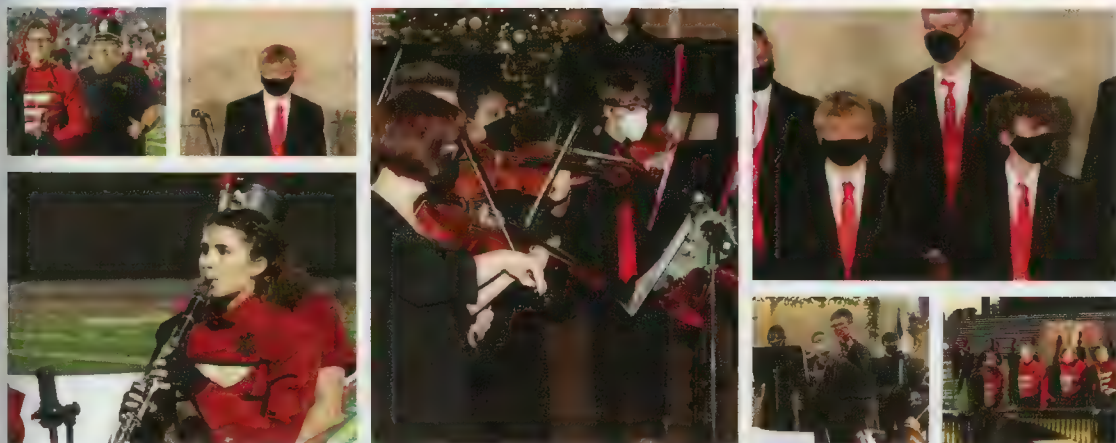
Mackenzie Knapp
Stantrel Knight
Justin Koenig
Leo Kopplin
Hsa Hsee Kpaw
Seth Kraus

Alaina Kress
Madelyn Kress
Eh Kaw Ku
Chad LaMay
Lani Laster
Landon
Lawver-Andrews

Lennon
Lawver-Andrews
JaTaya Lee
Robert Leihsing
Carly LeMaster
Mason Lensing
Riley Levan

Lakavion
Lewis-Glass
Caleb Lindsey
Kalai Lioen
Alexander Lloyd
Julian Lopez
Sancobi Lottie

Hudson Love
Bahati Lubembela
Antoinette Lwebula
Mwabo Lwebula
Tyree Madison
Emily Maess



mmm
MUSIC
lllll



Lah Set Kpru Moo
Ta Ear Paw Moo
Taw Moo
Shalom Moore
Starr Moore
Sireny Morales

Julian
Morales-Vicuna
Paris Morning
William Morris
Brayden Moseley
Amanda Mumma
Daniel Munson

Rashaad
Muskeyvalley
Jaden Nadeau
Isack Ndarama
Sandrine
Nduwimana
Hemsley Neal
J'Zaeya Neal

Jaydan Neaveill
Melanie Nebinger
LaDerricka Nephew
Alesia Nicholson
Hope Nipper
Man Nuam

Niviya Nunn
Queen
Nyinawabavuna
Faith O'Brien
Larry Olivier
Amare Overton
Lucy Oviatt

A RETURN TO THE RALLY @ THE ROCK



Makiyla Owens
Cecilia Padilla
Abbigail Parr
Eh Paw
Eh Ksaw Paw
Ka Paw



Kaelen Payton
Nevaeh Pedraza
Emma Penn
Ely Perez
Esteban Perez
Riley Porter



Alphonso Puckett
Rickiyla Pugh-Childs
Jayden Putnam
Smay Rai
Jeremiah Rainer
Julio Ramirez



Leticia Ramirez
Leonardo Rangel
Analice Rea
Cienna Reed
Paul Reed
Porscha Reed



Eli Reedy
Ian Regur
Gabriel Richardson
Myla Richardson
Oliana Richey
Michelle
Rivera-Marceleno



"It was a bit nerve racking at first. I was really nervous to actually drive for the first time. At first, I didn't even want to drive after getting my permit, but thankfully, I had plenty of help from my dad. Nervousness often got the best of me when I was driving, but I always knew exactly what I was supposed to do."

Delaney Carroll



"It's fun at the beginning. It can be a little scary, but I'm excited to have the freedom to go anywhere."

Joe Allen



"Learning to drive is fun because it means I'm growing up, and I can start driving myself places, but it's also very scary because I have to know a lot of information. Driving can be very stressful, but I'm excited to get my license soon!"

Alaina Esposito



"I've been driving side by sides in the country for awhile, so at first, I wasn't scared, but once I actually got on the road, it's a lot different than driving in corn fields. It was a huge change for me."

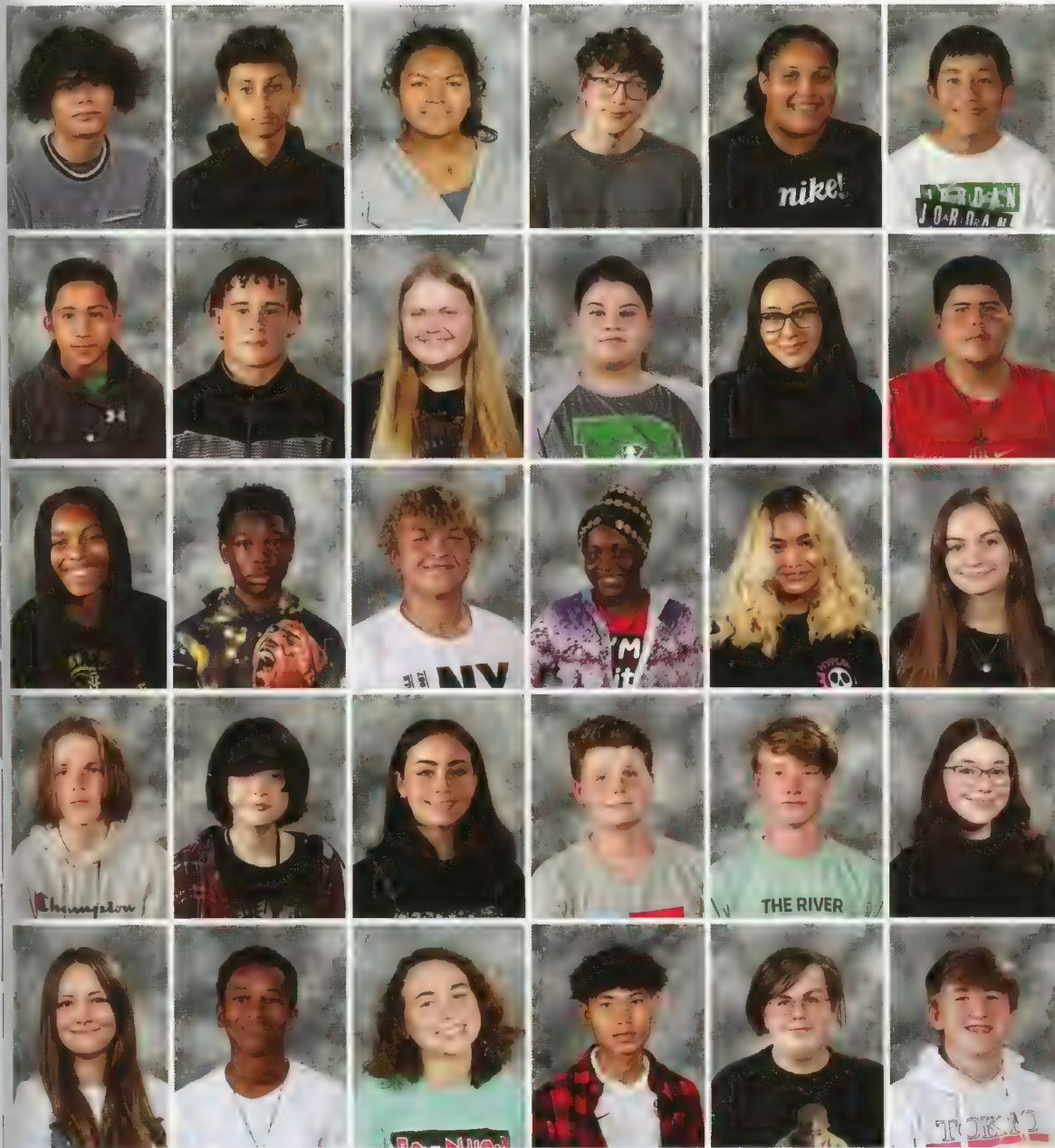
Conner Dilulio



"It is stressful, but also nice to know because it is convenient."

Asia Stern

GETTING ON THE ROAD



Mauricio
Rivera-Martinez
Rickey Robinson
Rebeca Robles
Jesse Rockhold
Cheyenne
Rodriguez
Angel Rodriguez
Jacobo

Angel Rodriguez
Jacobo
David Rogers
Ava Rohr
Tressie Romano
Jimena
Romero-Escamilla
Alex Romo

Aaliyah Ross
Dema'Jay Ruffin
Isaiah Samuelson
Mlebinge Sango
Eh Say
Gracie Scheper

Harley Schultz
Presley Scott
Amalia Serrano
DeAndrew Severs
Lucas Shadden
Bailey Sholl

Ashlynn Simmons
Brendan Smith
Kara Snyder
Htee Soe
Preston Sonnenberg
Tyler Spence

SPIRITED **SOPHOMORES** 2024



Spencer Staggs
Hunter St Amand
Gary Stamper
Alivia Stanley
Cheyenne Stanley
Mersades St Clair



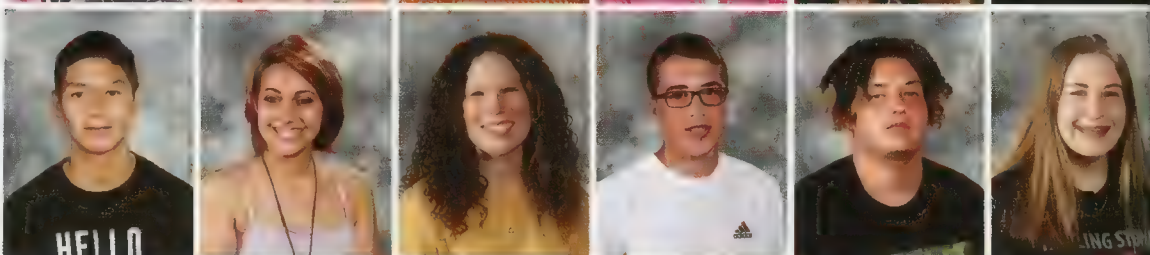
Nicolas Stephens
Asia Stern
Ke'Erica Stewart
Mary Stockdale
Autumn Stone
Aria Sulouff



Ma'Liyah Taylor
Jesse Thomas
Lydia Thomer
Kelsey Thornburg
Mallory Timm
Branden Tolbert



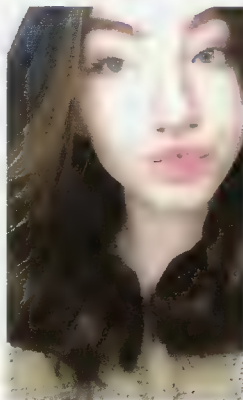
Alfredo Tovar
Kierstin Truschke
Chloe Turner
Daryn Untiedt
Xavier Valdez-Delrio
Emmalee
VanThournout



Ashley
Vazquez-Chavarria
Jorge Vega
Yulisa Vega Romo
Jacob Venegas
Truth Vesey
Arek Viernow



"It has been a huge privilege being part of the yearbook for 2021-2022. It was also really fun gathering the pictures, and seeing the pages fill up throughout the year. I am grateful to be part of an amazing group."
- Maryam Alhamdan

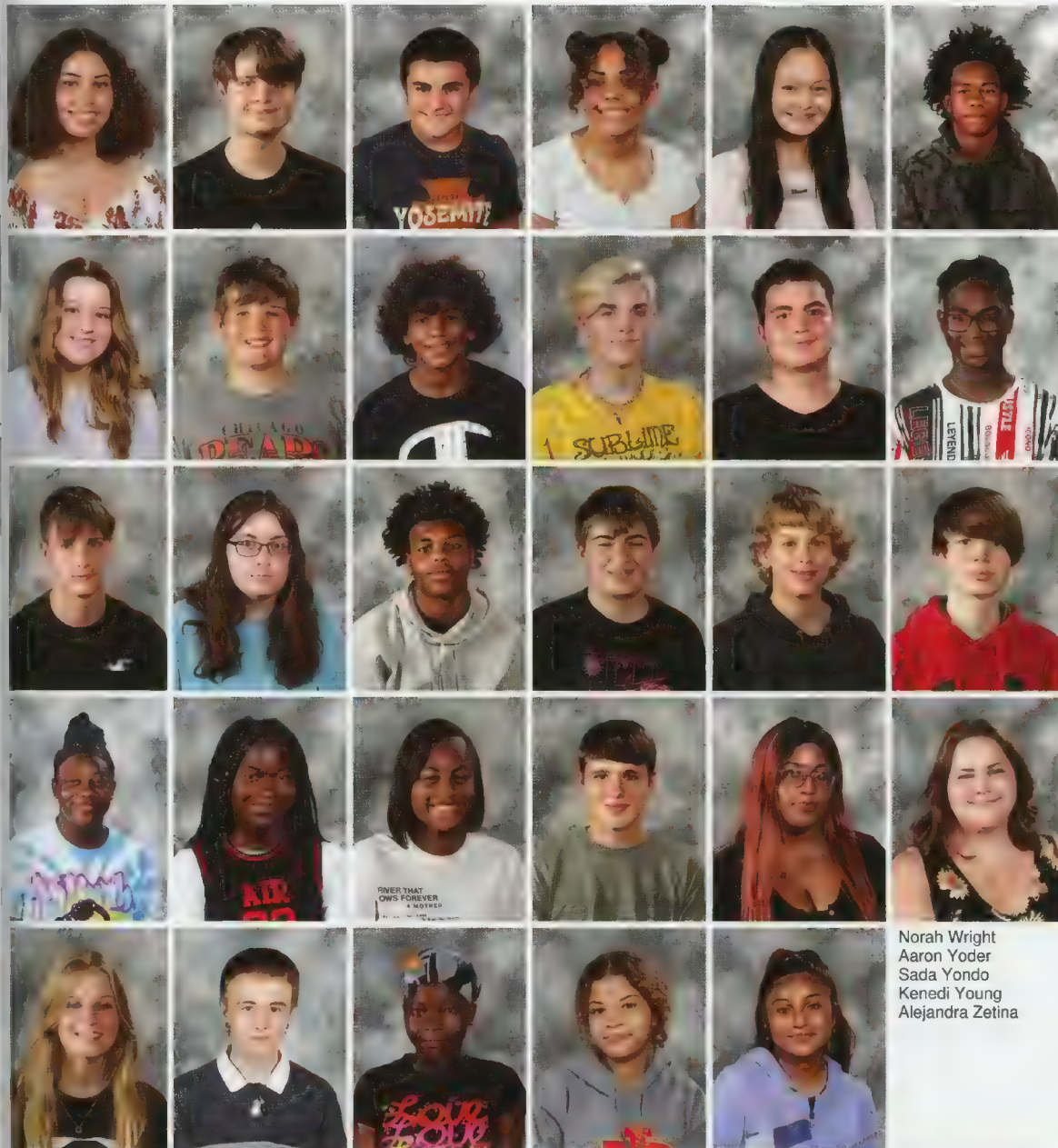


"To be able to contribute to the yearbook as a sophomore was eye-opening. I had never realized what all went into making the yearbook, and I only saw/helped with a small portion. It was fun to be able to see what goes into making an award winning yearbook, and work with a wonderful teacher and peers."
- Presley Behrens



"It was very fun, helping out with the yearbook this year. I remember wanting to be involved with making the yearbook since 6th grade, so I am very grateful for being a part of it. I think it's important because yearbooks are like a window to the past. And, they are a great way to look back on life in the future."
- Gracie Scheper





Makayla Villarreal
David Viviani
Elijah Voorhis
Brianna Wade
Poe Dah Wah
Brynden Walker

Lexie Walker
Nathan Welsh
Juan
Westerfield-Casco
Egan Westmorland
James Westmorland
Josiah Weston

Hayden Wheatley
Makena Whitcanack
Darus White
Skyler White
John Wilde
Parker Williams

KayNiya Willoughby
Mayani Wilondja
LaTonyiah Wilson
Cody Wolf
Kaliyah Woods
Maisy Woods

Norah Wright
Aaron Yoder
Sada Yondo
Kenedi Young
Alejandra Zetina

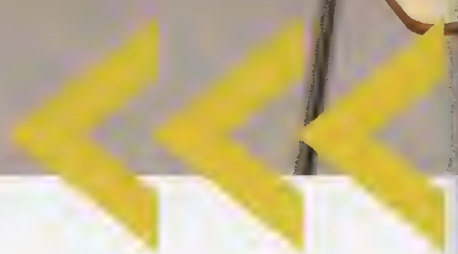
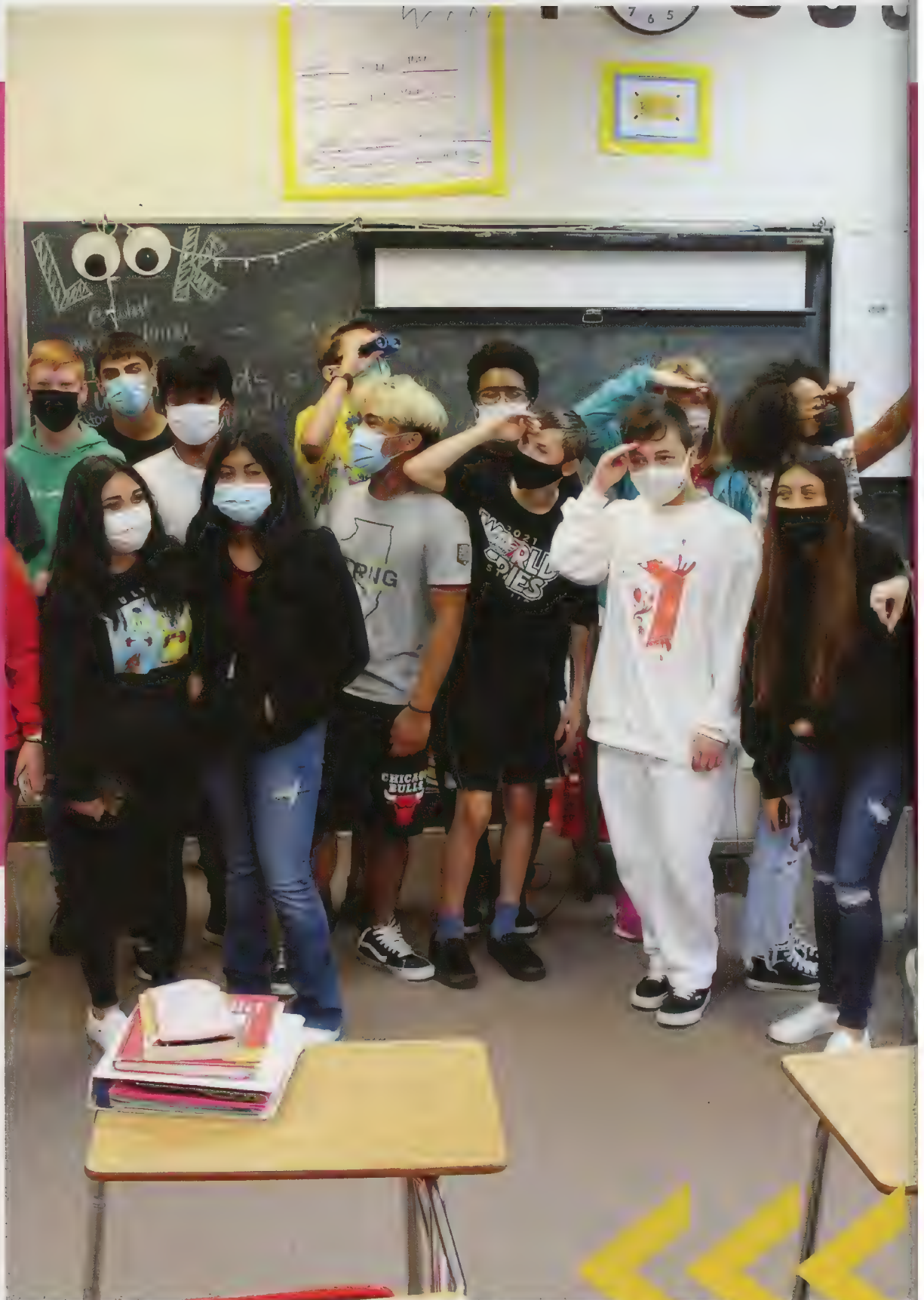


"Choir means being a part of a family. It means watching myself and others around me grow as people and musicians. My ultimate goal is to learn more about myself, and who I am as a musician. Some day, I will pass on creating music to my future generations, and will be able to watch them grow as musicians, as well."

- Lauren Groene

"Being in choir is a good experience. We like to make jokes, and learn new, challenging music. My goals in my high school choir career are to have fun, and sing music together. Compared to other classes, it's kinda different."

- Kal Boswell



REFRESH



Freshman year is always a tough transition, but for us, the last time we had a "normal year" of school was sixth grade. So, this year, we are looking to REfresh what it means for us to be in school and freshmen. Missing junior high is a challenge no other Rocky class has ever had. However, we are adjusting to the Rock, and life on third floor in the Freshman Academy.

We have the opportunity to learn from the upperclassmen during the school day, in REhearsals, in practices, and in club meetings. We are REady to take on all that Rocky offers, and create our own paths and successes here. We are eager to carry on the Rocky traditions we have watched for so long. Now, it's us on the field, in the stands, on the court, and REpresenting Rocky. And, we are REady.

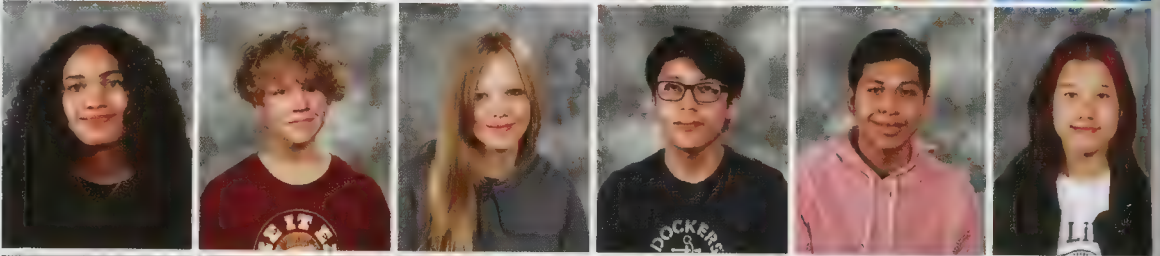
Katelyn Adams
Elaina Adlfinger
Isabella Adner
Jordan Ahrens
Tahviona Akers
Luis Albarran



Cristina Aleman
Ali Aliev
Olivia-Ann Almanza
Rolando Almanza
Taniya Altman
Camron Anderson



Keziah Anderson
Ryley Anderson
Kaily Armstrong
Luis Arredondo-Lopez
David Avila-Perez
San San Aye



Ia'yahh Ayyash
Ebubu Babocha
Vital Babwiriza
Ja'ron Bailey-Harris
Ja'Neel
Baltimore-Steward
Carson Banks



Bibi Barikzay
Karli Barker
Addison Barrell
Alejandro Barrera
Gandarias
Mariah Bazer
Ariah Beadel



"When COVID started, I was in 7th grade, in the midst of the school play, but it ended because of the circumstances. But, I'm happy I could redeem it with such an amazing Fall Play with amazing people. Theater is something I have loved to do for years, and I feel blessed to have finally done it with such great people."

Angeline Nascentelli

"It sets me apart from other people. It says something about me that nobody would know unless I told them, or they came to the shows. Drama is like a family to me. Drama is so much fun. You could probably tell how much fun it is just by watching one of the shows. The people in Drama Club treat me like family, and I treat them like family, too."

Alisa McCombie

"Being part of the Drama program means participating in something I have a passion for. My favorite memory of the Fall Play was the cast party at Steak and Shake. I had so much fun, and I can't wait for the next play!"

Lauren Cottrell

"Being a part of Drama is like being a part of another family. It is a great activity to make new friends and hang out. I have found many connections with other people, just by being in one play! :) I loved it all!!!!!!"

Grace Cleveland





Cory Beltran
Zane Benavidez
Joslyn Bernal
Rehema Berthe
Francoise Betty
Kaylee Binion

Evan Birdsall
Cadeau Bisetsa
Puratee Bogart-Pepper
Zoe Bradley
Jorge Bravo Rios
Alexander Breiby

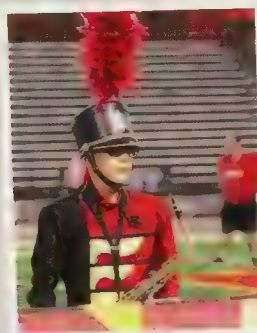
Joe Brooks
A'Keyla Brown
Nickijah Bryant
Orion Bullock
Wyatt Bunch
De'Ja Burmeister

Ler Bwe
Brooklyn Campbell
Johnnieah Campbell
Victoria Campbell
Austin Cantrell
Xoey Cantu

Jesse Carapia
Marco Carapia
Anarie Carlton
Gage Carothers
Gunnar Carroll
Madison Carroll



"Concert Band wasn't enough. I wanted to be more involved. I liked how invested the Marching Band was."
- Kylie Melchi



"There were too many memories from Marching Band to even count, but the one that shares a place in my heart was when the whole band came back to the bus after winning the last marching band competition of the season. We took the Grand Champion of the annual Western Illinois University Multi-Class Marching Band Competition. Out of over 20 bands competing, we beat all of them with a greater score. I believe every member of the band cried at least once that night, and we all just soaked up the moment with each other for about 20 minutes before starting to pack up. It was a night that will never leave my mind."
- Jaxon Womack



"I wanted to be part of Marching Band because in 2019, I was in 7th grade, and I saw the 'To Find My Soul' show during Preview Night, and I thought it was really cool, so I decided that I wanted to do that. My favorite memory is when we went to the mall, and got a Build-A-Bear for our band director, and named it Carlin Jr."
- Caden Moore



MARCHING WITH
Pride

Mary Carruthers
Cecilia Casco
Tullis Cavins
Bukeneza Cendrine
Cecilia Chavez
Taylor Chenoweth



Alexander Churchill
Aaliyah Clark
Jae Vion Clark
TayShawn Clark
Grace Clevenger
Molly Cliff



Namarion Coleman
Davonte Conner
Patrick Conner
Yasmin
Contreras-Villagomez
JaMarion Cooke
Devon Cooper



JC-Leeyah Cooper
Nakelle
Counts-Richardson
Lindell Crawford
Sydney Crawford
Zachery Cross
Brayden Crowe



Nathaniel
Cruz-Oliveros
Chase Curry
Makyah Daniels
Irakunda Darilene
LaNina Daugherty
Max Davis



Chase Hadley is already leaving his legacy at Rocky, and he's only a freshman! During his first season golfing, he led the team. Hadley explains, "It was a cool experience, knowing that I led the team, and that I got to play against other top golfers from other schools." Like most athletes, he didn't just magically become as good as he has overnight. Hadley explains he has "been playing and messing around with the game ever since I was little, but at age 11 is when I started taking the game seriously, and started playing competitively." Just like every athlete or person who wants to improve, he has faced setbacks and challenges. One of them is having to practice and perfect the same swing over and over for hours. Even through the setbacks and imperfect times, there's always the love for the sport present. He plans to play golf in college, when the time comes, but he hasn't planned where he wants to go yet. Lucky for Rocky, he still has three years left to compete for the Rock!





Myles Davis
Todd Dennison
Dillion DePaepe
Natalee DeVoss
William Dickens
Owen Dietz

Andrew Dillin
Edward Dominguez
Aundrea Doss
Trace Downing
Allison Drish
Isaais Duarte

Justice Dunbar
Isabella Dunford
Jazimine
Eckmann-Allred
Ronchelle Edwards
Christen Egan
Zoe Ehlers

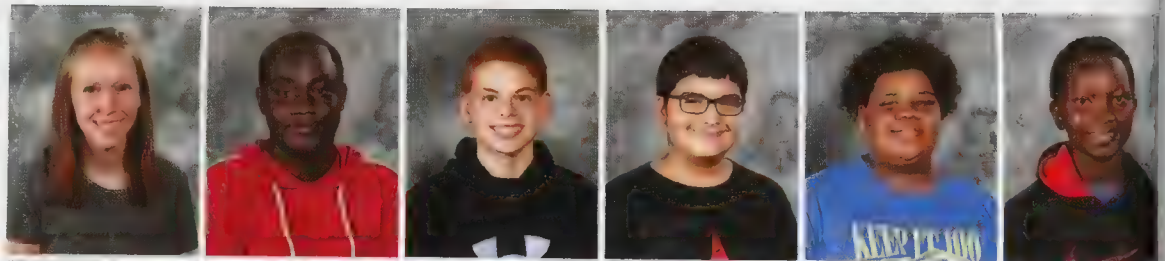
Thom Elliott
Remi Engeland
Jayden Erps
Mureberez Fabiola
Haneen Farhan
Joshua Farrance

Keyonte Farrow
Kaleb Faulkner
Noemi
Figueroa-Salinas
Justin Flores
La'Rontae Ford
Kale Foster

FRESHMEN ON THE FIELD



Dylan Frantz
Alexis Gahimbare
Colin Galbraith
David Gallardo
Isaiah Gant
Aimable Ganza



Isaiah Garcia
Andrea
Garcia-Gallegos
Avianna Gardner
Jaylin Gardner
V Jay Garrard
Jordohn Gillen



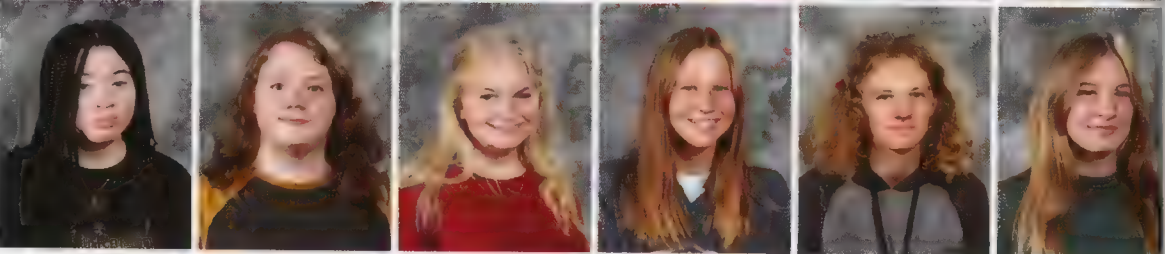
Essence Gilmore
Benjamin Goeh
Lauren Gottcent
Bradley Grant
Kevin Grass
Gaheta Gratien



Riley Gray
Cheslsea Green
Alissa Gugelmeyer
Noah Guy
Chase Hadley
Malaya Haley



Akyla Hall
Logan Harker
Chloe Harmon
Grace Hathaway
Daniel Hauskins
Reagan Hawotte



ACING
AWARD



Quintan Haynes
Lukas Heine
Joslynn Henderson
Rayna Henry
Faith Herington
Christopher Hernandez

Savannah Hickson
Aiden Hill
Kamiya Hill
Mia Hixson
Jasmine Hodges
Grace Hodonou

Cameron Holland
Isaiah Horskins
Karsen Horton
Louis Hoteling
Stella Houk
Jacob Housby

Timothy Howser
Moo Gay Htoo
Ywa Tar Hay Htoo
Benjamin Huisman
Nevaeh Hunter
Joselin Ibarra Valencia

Olivier Itabelo
Anyah Jackson
Havionna Jackson
Ki'Leyah Jackson
Nadiya Jackson
Hannah James



"Choir is a great way to meet new people, and form bonds through our love of singing and improvement, I suppose."

- Nami King, on being the only freshman in Chamber Singers



Andre Jamison
Birdie Johnson
Traveon Johnson
Zane Johnson
Zeppelin Johnson
Jayla
Johnson-Coleman



Caydence
Johnson-Scrifer
Aunah Jones
Mpawenimana Justin
Mu Phlay K'Tooe Soe
Olivia Kargl
Harrison Kelley



Jessa Kelley
Itabelo Kenasi
Jozie Kerr
Lillian King
Nami King
Brayden Kirzeder



Leah Kitterman
Coltin Klossing
Isaiah Knapp
Quanasia Knight
Stanasia Knight
Joseph Kososki



Kaitlyn Kutzman
Hser Mu La
Aiden Lannen
Connor Latcham
Victor Lee
Yessenia Leos-Ochoa



SUITING UP for the Rocks



BEN GOEH

"Being a Rock Island High School student means, especially on the Varsity level, I should always focus on my academics, so I can be eligible to play, and I also have to make it on time to practice every single day, so I can earn myself a spot, and I also have to be respectful to my coaches and my teammates."



A'RION LONERGAN

"The sports are more serious. Everyone around me is talented, and everyone has their own set of skills, but when you put everyone's skills together, we do great things! Rocky is a great school for student athletes, and encourages that drive and hunger that we all crave during these sport seasons. Being a Rocky student athlete is amazing, and I can't wait to see what Rocky has to offer for me in the coming 3 years!"



DANIEL HAUSKINS

"To me, being a Rocky athlete, as a freshman, means that I am the future of the program. Currently, I think I have a lot to learn in both the game of soccer and my academics. I'm excited for the future, and what it may hold for me, our soccer program, and the school, overall."



DYLAN FRANZ

"Being a Rocky athlete means being a role model for those younger and older than you by showing off your skills, having fun, and being a team player."



Damian Lessard
Shawntia Lewis
Swavay Lewis
Tavarias Lewis
Abbagale Lieber
Kyontah Little

A'ron
Loneragan-Shinskia
Kaitlyn Long
Richard Long
Alexzander Lopez
Juanita Lopez
Natalie Lopez

Nevaeh Lopez
Daisy Lucio
Famiya Luundo
Jaxson Lydon
Harper Maloney
Leek Malual

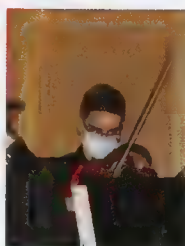
Isabella Marceleno
Yadier Marceleno
Jillian Martin
Xylynn Martin
Gerardo Martinez
Olivia Martinez

Hope Matchie
Kayla Mathews
Hunter Mau
Kevin Mayares
Dai Shaun McCaw
Terrence McClay

Lauren Gottcent
"It's an amazing experience, and I really enjoy having older people with more experience!"



Owen Dietz
"It's very challenging, which makes it fun, and tests your skill and techniques."



Emily O'Brien
"It's kind of like having a second family."



Welcome to Orchestra

September Naing
"It's normal, and it's not as big of a deal as everyone thinks it is."

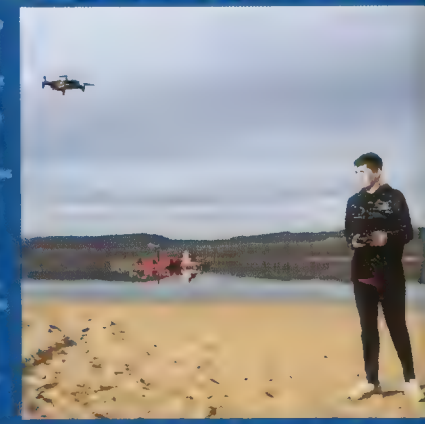
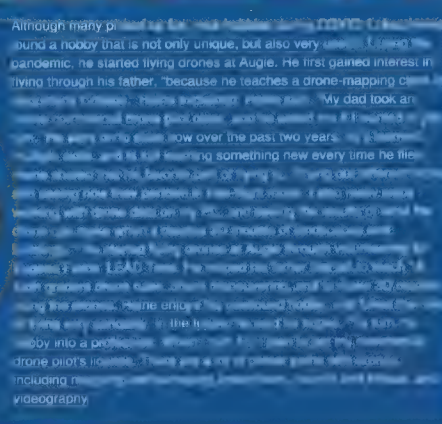


Wyatt Bunch
"It is fairly unique. Orchestra, in general, is great because of the environment. I like being a freshman in Orchestra because, first off, Mrs. Benson is a great teacher. She helps students at their own pace, and knows when students are actually trying. Also, what I like is that the class isn't just freshmen because it gives me, not only someone to learn from, but also gives me someone I know is better than me, and makes me want to try to get as good as them through experience and teaching."



A row of six student portraits. From left to right: a female student with blonde hair in a black Adidas shirt; a female student with long brown hair in a red shirt; a female student with dark hair in a black shirt with 'ACADEMY' text; a male student with short dark hair in a dark hoodie; a female student with long dark hair in a striped shirt; and a female student with dark hair in a red shirt.

A row of six student portraits. From left to right: a young man with short reddish-brown hair wearing a dark blue sweatshirt; a young woman with long dark hair and a yellow and white patterned top; a young man with short blonde hair wearing a black t-shirt; a young man with short dark hair wearing a white polo shirt with blue trim and a small logo; a young woman with long dark hair wearing a white top; and a young woman with long dark hair wearing a blue denim jacket over an orange top.





Bernard Musafiri
Masudi Mwanuke
Elijah Nadeau
September Naing
Timothy Nash
Richard Neaveill

Alexis Nelson
Landyn Nelson
Eric Niyomwungere
Carnelio Niyonyishu
Niyonzima Niyonzima
Jafari Niyukuri

Angelina Nocentelli
Kyle Nombre
Morris Nunn
Machosi Nyassa
Emily O'Brien
Nathan Olderog

Jake Osborn
Abigail Owens
Dylan Panick
Elvina Paris
Janiah Parks
Poc Paw

Harley Payney
Christian Pearson
Gladys Perez
Juana Perez Morales
Rowan Perion
Keianna Pettis

our first rally at the rock



Lily Phares
Avion Pickett-Madison
Angelika Plasencia
Eh Eh Poe
Brian
Polanco-Guzman
S'Nya Pollard



Isaac Potenzo
Ja'siah Rainer
Dreshawn Randolph
Antonio Rayford
Kiley Redman
Lillian Reid



Elijah Reid-Scott
Breana Reymier
Layla Rice
Lyric Rice
Elise Richardson
Christian Rivera



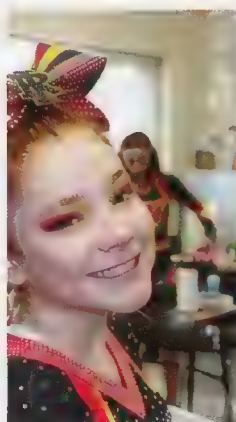
Daniel Rivera
Milca Robles
Linda Rose
Amir Ross
DeShawn Rucker
Nevaeh Rucker



Brian Salas
Amina Salim
Jose Salinas-Pelaez
Olivia Samuelson
Ku Say
Haley Scott



"The purpose of Rainbow Girls is to help girls become strong women and leaders, and also to help the community. My favorite activity from the group is going to Six Flags every year."
Haley Scott



"Rainbow is a service organization, and it is to help prepare girls for the world. I have been in Rainbow for 4 years. We do many fundraisers, and we help around our community. My favorite part is the fun meetings we do. For example, water balloon fights, create a dress out of a trash bag, and many more."
Whitney Stivers





Maddox Scott
Seamina Scott
Trinity Sepulveda
Khu Shee
Mylie Shook
Elizabeth Shorten

Beline Shukuru
Emalee Slayden
Keana Smith
Logan Smith
Santana Smith
Valerie Smith

Delilah Solis
Bahati Songolo
Jesus Sosa
Logan Spawn
Ariyah Spoljoric
Grant Stewart

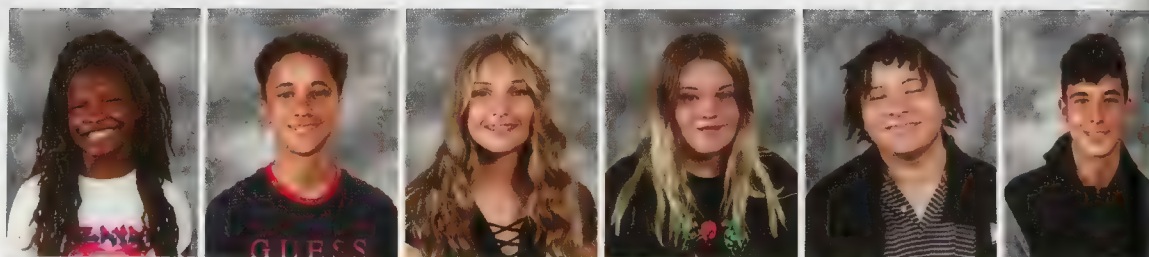
Whitney Stivers
Merrick Stockwell
Skylar Stone
Sophia Stout
Eh Su
Eh Tahe Ta

Paul Tabb
Amya Tate
Amariyana Taylor
DaMarie Terrell
Ryleigh Terry
Akeira Thomas

FRESHMEN FOOTBALLERS



Cydney Thomas
Canyon Thompson
Jaida Thompson
Payton Thompson
Jeremiah Thornton
Kyle Thrapp



Javontae Turner
Harmony Umporowicz
Lineth Valverde
Kaleb Vancoillie
Christian Varela
Chauncey
Vaughn-McBride



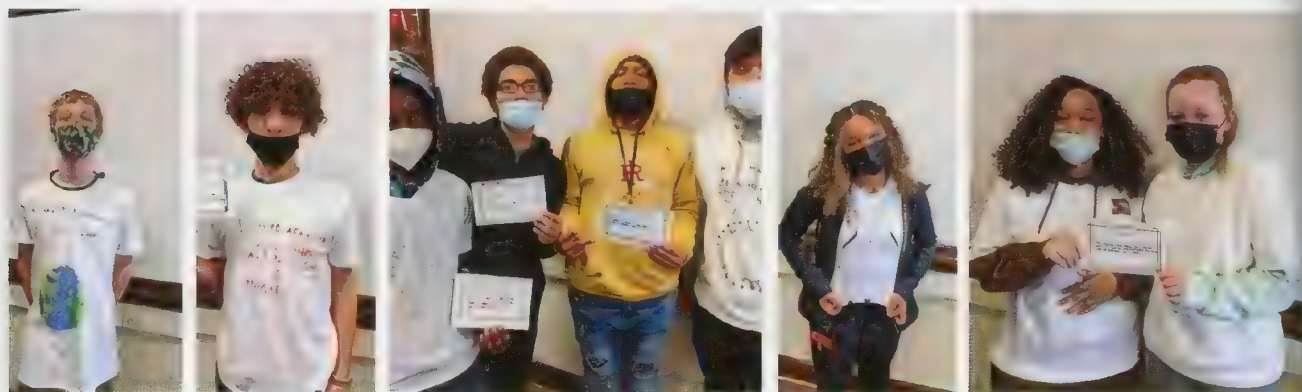
Riziki Venansia
Grace Vidmar
Josiah Wages
Alvhanie Wagner
Alexander Walls
Madison Wangler



Dario Ware
Jada Wells
Talaysia West
Keenan Westerfield
Tyler Whipple
Amiaha White



Demonta Whitfield
DeAvion Williams
Jayden Williams
Kiana Williams
Bisochi Wilondja
Malingumu Wilondja





Ngolo Wilondja
Jaxon Womack
Chandra Woods
Davion Woodson
J'Laysia Wright
Jamaya Yancey

Tway Ye
Barack Young
Laron Young
Miranda Zeroth

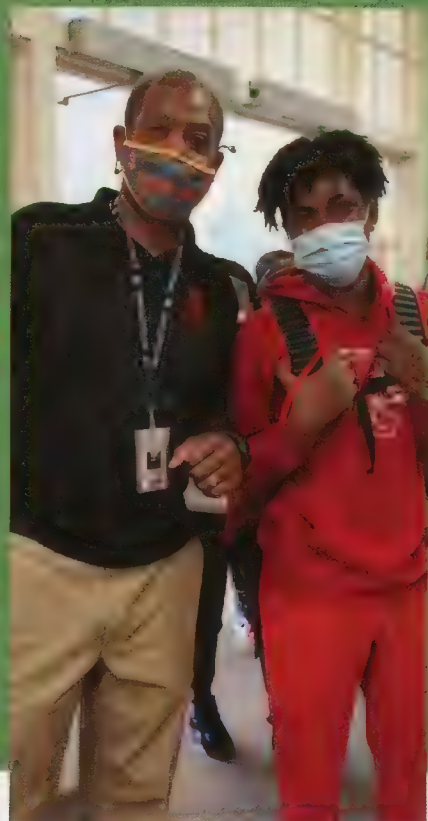


A DIFFERENT KIND OF HOMEWORK

Mr. Mente's World Studies classes created shirts showcasing human rights issues. They were able to show off their creativity, as well as their values, in class.



REORGANIZE



While we are back in our classrooms for a full day, this certainly hasn't been a REturn to normal. We are REorganizing our classrooms- not only physically, to better keep students and ourselves at a safe distance, but REorganizing how we teach and acclimate students back into a full day of in person learning, after a year and a half of learning at home, or for only half of the day.

We are RE-evaluating how we teach, what we teach, and how we think about our classes. Teaching through a pandemic changed a lot about what we do each day. We missed seeing our students and colleagues in the halls every day. We missed the daily interactions with our classes. So, this year, as we REorganize, we REalize how lucky we are to have this chance to be back in our rooms, and we REthink how we can make an impact each day with each student.



Mr. Allison



Mr. Almanza



Mrs. Alvarez



Mrs. Arnold



Ms. Attebery



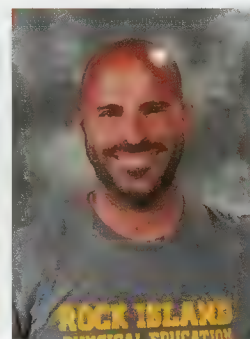
Mr. Behnke



Ms. Bisom



Mrs. Bohling



Mr. Bollart



Mrs. Bouchareb

Staffing Styles



"I grew up in a French culture, where fashion was very important."
- Madame B



"My mom is big on style, so she influenced me in a big way to dress nice."
- Mrs. Davis



"I'm influenced by the teachers that worked before me, while I was student teaching."
- Mr. Williams



"I need to be comfortable and make students feel like I am approachable."
- Mrs. Hayek



Mr. Campbell



Mr. Carlin



Mr. Catterton



Mrs. Chewning



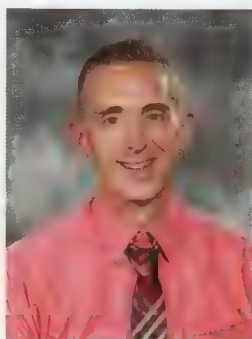
Mrs. Churchill



Ms. Cooley



Mr. Corwin



Mr. Coyne-Logan



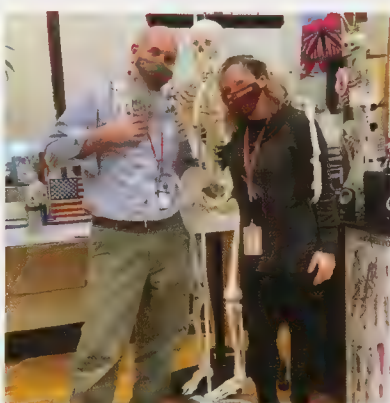
Mrs. Crowder



Mrs. Curtiss



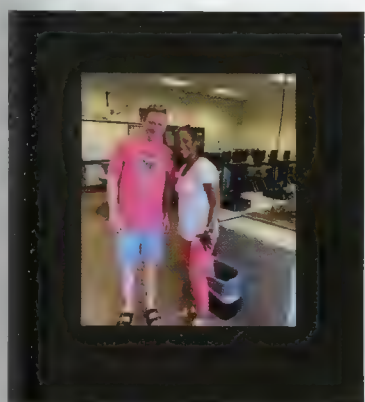
Mrs. Stribling and Mrs. Young
(6 years)



Mr. Laroche and Mrs. Trimble
(16 years)



Mrs. Greenwood and Mrs.
Hayek (21 years)



Mr. Stone and Mrs. Dieudonne
(10 years)

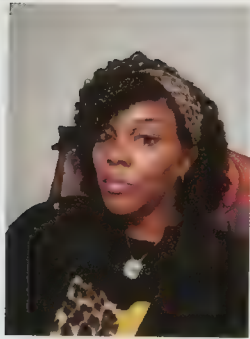


Mrs. Foster and Ms. Miers
(13 years)



Mr. Pugh and Mr. Butler
(15 years)

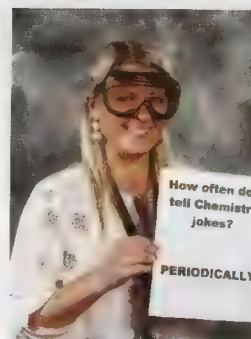
THAT'S MY *Bestie!*



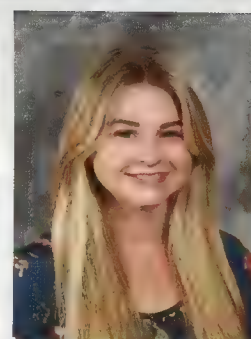
Mrs. Davis



Mrs. Dempsey-Rohr



Mrs. Dennis



Miss Denton



Mrs. Dieudonne



Mr. Dunker



Mr. Dyer



Mrs. Dyer



Mr. Eli



Mr. Figgs



Mrs. Foster



Ms. Gonzalez



Dr. Grandberry-Pugh



Mr. Gray



Mrs. Greenwood

Returning Rocks



Ms. Miers graduated from Rock Island High School in 2007.



Mr. Rice graduated from Rock Island High School in 2004.



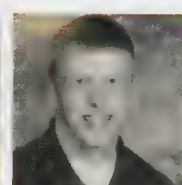
Mr. Kennelly graduated from Rock Island High School in 2000.



Mrs. Foster graduated from Rock Island High School in 2000.



Mrs. Singleton graduated from Rock Island High School in 2013.



Mr. Corwin graduated from Rock Island High School in 2007.



Mrs. Hams graduated from Rock Island High School in 1992.



Mr. Gustafson



Mr. Hains



Mr. Hakizimana



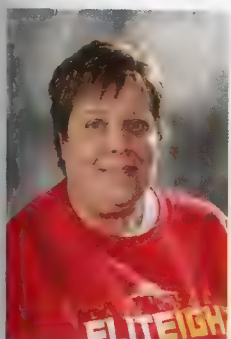
Mr. Hammer



Mrs. Hanrahan



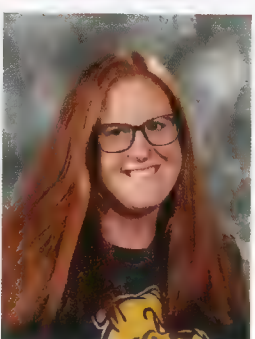
Mrs. Harms



Mrs. Hayek



Mrs. Hornick



Mrs. Jackson



Ms. Johnson



Mr. Joseph



Mr. Kennelly



Dr. Kirgan



Mr. Kitterman



Mrs. Lack



Mr. LaRoche



Mrs. Magerkurth

Fascinating Faculty

"I've played dek hockey at Crow Creek Park in Bettendorf for almost 10 years now."

- Mr. Kennelly



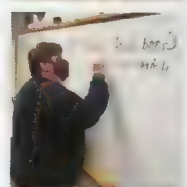
"My hidden talent isn't too much- but I do caricatures for events. I also do murals, logos, portraits and watercolors."

- Mr. Gustafson



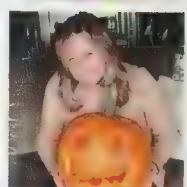
"Sometimes, I write backwards. Whether to surprise someone or to keep others from reading my reactions, this skill works."

- Mrs. Hayek



"My birthday is on Halloween."

- Mrs. Harms



"Many people know that Mr. Vroman and I were high school sweet hearts, but many people don't know that we 'met' in first communion at the same church we would eventually get married in."

- Mrs. Vroman



"I refinish furniture, and my husband is the mayor of Davenport."

- Mrs. Matson





Ms. Martens



Ms. Martinez



Mrs. Matherly



Mrs. Matson



Mrs. McClendon



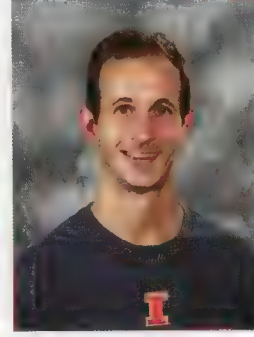
Mr. McCollum



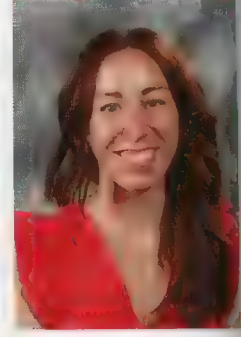
Mr. Melody (and Mr. Catterton)



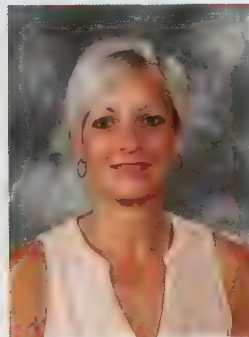
Mrs. Mendelin



Mr. Mertel



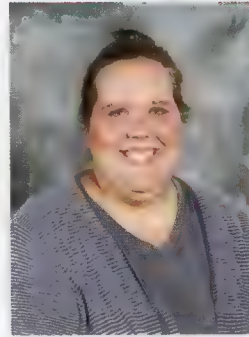
Mrs. Mertel



Mrs. Mewes



Ms. Miers



Ms. Miers



Miss Miley



Mrs. Miller-DeDecker



high school sweethearts



"We have worked together for 21 years. We actually have to go out of our way to see each other during the day. We do like that we have the option to talk or see each other, if we would like. Another benefit is we are always on the same schedule. We often have common things to talk about."
- Mrs. Dyer



"I enjoy working with my spouse. A lot of the students think it's cool, and so often times, they will see us, and joke around with us. It's also nice when I forget my lunch, and I can just eat his :)"
- Mrs. Singleton
"It is fun to work with your spouse. You sometimes can eat lunch together. It also helps build relationships with students because my wife is the cool hall monitor."
- Mr. Singleton



"Working with my husband means I have my best friend and support system at home and at school. He understands the hard days, and cheers on the good days."
- Mrs. Mertel



Miss Moody



Mrs. Morgan



Mr. Mwaga



Mrs. Nelson



Mr. Osmun



Mrs. Oswald



Mrs. Parer



Mrs. Pearson



Mr. Polite



Mrs. Preston



Ms. Ramirez



Mr. Randle



Mrs. Randolph



Mrs. Regan



Mrs. Rel

Bring your Child to Work *Every Day*

Mrs. Mertel:

"Bringing Rowan to work every day is easy. It's an extra stop we don't have to make. The daycare workers are awesome to her. It makes it a relief to know she's in a happy and safe environment."

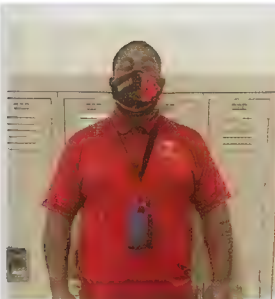
Mrs. Nelson:

"At times, it gets distracting because I constantly want to go visit her in the daycare every minute. It is nice to know that she is in a safe place. The daycare ladies are good to me, and I love them."



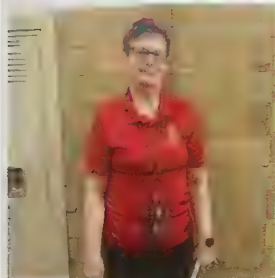
Mrs. Randolph:

"It was very enjoyable and nice. In my free time, I was able to feed her during off periods. It was also stressful. It started to feel like a necessity to go off and consistently check on her. It also saved a lot of time knowing she was in the building."



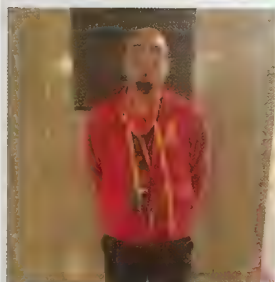
Mr. Pugh

"Having the chance to make a difference in a student's life, and building the student and hall monitor relationships."



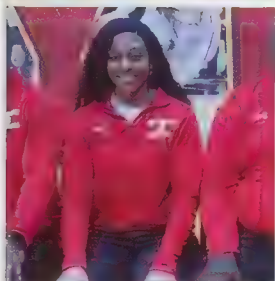
Mrs. Alvarez

"I've worked at Rocky for the last 31 years. I love that every day is different. We have a great group of teachers- working together for the students. Looking forward to many more years."



Mr. Almanza

"Building relationships with the students and staff. Having trust and respect goes a long way!"



Mrs. Singleton

"Interacting with all the kids. A lot of the kids will stop and talk to me before and after school, so to be able to put a smile on a kid's face makes me happy."



Mr. Randle

"Being able to help our students progress in the highest level in education and life."



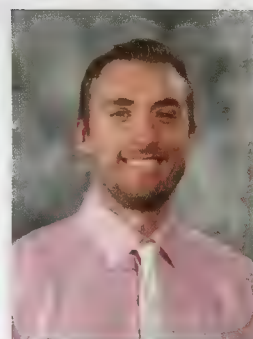
Mr. Schwab

"The thing I like about being a security guard is the ability to influence kids into making better choices."

ROCK SOLID SECURITY



Mrs. Resch



Mr. Resner



Mr. Riccio



Mr. Rice



Ms. Rivera



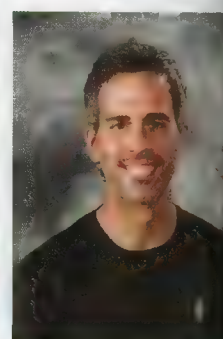
Mr. Roberts



Mr. Rogers



Ms. Schaffer



Mr. Schriefer



Mr. Schwab



Mr. Sebben



Mr. Sharp



Mr. Sigel



Mr. Stone



Mrs. Stribling



Mrs. Terronez



Mr. Thies



Mrs. Trigueros



Mrs. Trimble



Mrs. VanKirk



Ms. Vega



Mr. Verschore



Mrs. Vroman



Mr. Wayland



Mr. Weber



Mr. Whitaker



Mr. Williams



Mrs. Woods



Mrs. Wyers



Mrs. Young

SECRETARIAL SENTIMENTS

Mrs. Wyers

"I love seeing kids I met when they were in elementary school."



Mrs. Terronez

"I don't get to see them as much, but my favorite part of working here has always been the kids."



Mrs. Crowder

"I love getting to work with the students and our teachers."



Mrs. Nevenner

"Talking with kids, and finding out their stories, i.e. background (What makes them who they are, what has shaped them)."



Ms. Shaffer

"I enjoy connecting with people, and meeting all of the students that come into our office."





REBUILD



We all can agree that the sport we play is more than just a team here at the Rock. It's a family. From spending countless hours practicing on the field, track, court, mats, and in the pool, to beating your rivals, or reflecting on what you can do better next time to accomplish the team's goal, we've all realized how much it means to compete as a Rock. We once heard that it's only a loss if you didn't learn anything. If we have grown stronger each game, and learned something new, what losses have we really experienced? It's rewarding to see all the hard work we've put in all these years pay off. The tight bonds we have made with our teammates are connections we will keep throughout our lives. You uplift and build each other up to become better teammates. Playing a sport here at the Rock is bittersweet. From that giddy feeling of putting your uniform on for the first time as a freshman, to the tear jerking time you hang it up at the end of your last game of your senior year, you realize how much wearing the Rocky jersey means. Our athletic pride here shows how much love and energy gets put into each school sport, and how our teams really build a culture within the school and community. The teams are working on rebuilding their programs due to shortened seasons last year. With this rebuilding, the Rocky teams are eager to return to their pre-pandemic status and success.

SHOOTING FOR

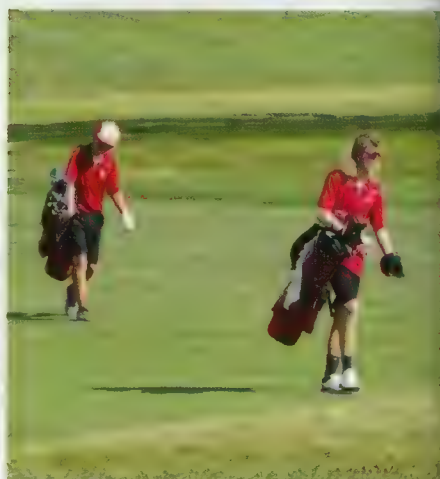
SECTIONALS

The 2021 Boys' Golf season was a successful season for all those who played, and especially those who qualified for the post season. "The team's biggest accomplishment this year was qualifying 2 players for Sectionals," says Coach Craig Sharp.

This year, 3 Varsity players shot their career best scores in Regionals. Coach Sharp says, "We improved on our focus, and our scores went down as our focus increased."

A player who improved most this season was Aaron York. He shot an 86 in the Regional Meet, and Chase Hadley shot a 78 in the Regional Tournament.

Lastly, Coach Sharp states, "We had players with great attitudes, and many young players who want to be good players."



"Well, it's a great honor to be a captain of a Varsity sports team, especially one with a lot of underclassmen."
- Eli Boeye



"Being a senior Varsity golfer makes me feel like I have a role to play. I have to be a good role model for the underclassmen."
- Brycen McGarry

REBUILD



"As a team, we are still able to grow over the pandemic. Our practices and meetings continued, however individuals did come to a pause, and we had to start wearing masks. Overall, it was a pretty smooth transition into the 2021 season."

VARSITY SOFTBALL



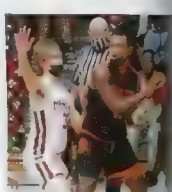
Marieon Anderson
 "Being a senior on the basketball team means a lot because it makes me a leader automatically. It's nice to have that feel of one last run, and put on for the community and our fans."



Eli Reese
 "It's special to me. I've been on Varsity for 3 years, and it's been fun to grow with my teammates and coaches. It's a proud feeling."



Baker Beal
 "It means you have a huge role to play, and you have to really know what you're doing, so that everyone can get to where we want to be."



Polite-ly Stepping In
 The Rocks are returning after the COVID season, along with a new asset to the team. New Head Coach Marc Polite said, "I am excited for this great opportunity to be the Head Coach at Rock Island High School. This is such a storied program, with a rich tradition of success, and I would love to have the same level of success that my predecessors achieved." Polite is ready to make an impact on the Rocks' Basketball Team, and lead them to success. He stated, "We are wanting to build a solid foundation within the basketball program, by instilling the values that makes a program strong- things like hard work, citizenship, and responsibility are what we will strive to instill in our players. I believe that if we do those things, winning will come naturally."



Under the leadership of new Head Coach, Marc Polite, the Rocks finished their season 11-3 in Conference, Regional Champions, and finished with a 22-10 record.

Coach Polite stated, "Playing important state tournament games from the Regional Championship to Sectional Championship games" has been the team's greatest accomplishment this season.

This year, the Rocks were led by their many seniors. "We are a senior led team, with 10 total seniors on our roster. All of our seniors are leaders in their own way, which I think has made for a good season," Coach Polite explained.



Adjusting to a new coach and program could have been a challenge for the Rocks, but proved not to be one they couldn't overcome. "We had to adjust to a new coach and system with an experienced group. We had moments where it worked well, and times where it didn't. Overall, we found a way to put it all together for a successful season," Polite stated.

Overall, Polite was very proud of his Rocks, and the tradition of excellence they continued. Polite explained what he was most proud of, stating, "Watching this group come together and become a team. Learning to work together and trust each other."



Jaylin Randle

"Being a senior in basketball feels surreal. I've played basketball all 4 years, and it is crazy that it's already my senior year. This is my last ride, and I have to make this one count."



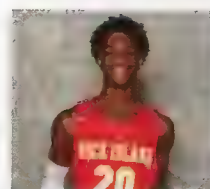
Raequan Miller

"It means a lot, just putting everything I got into it. I couldn't ask for a better program and team. It has been a long ride with my brothers. We've had our losses, and we've had our wins, but through it all, we stuck by each other's side, and kept playing, and I will forever love being a Rock Island player."



Jaquai Scott

"It is a fun program to be a part of. We have a role to set to the underclassmen. With it being my first year on Varsity, it feels good."

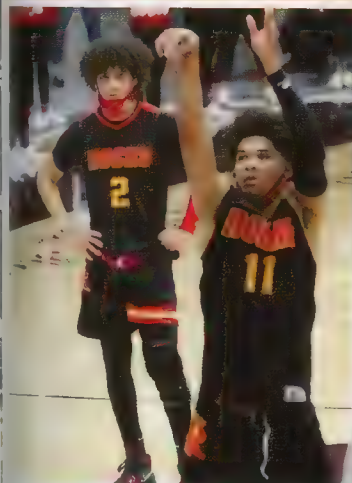


REBUILD



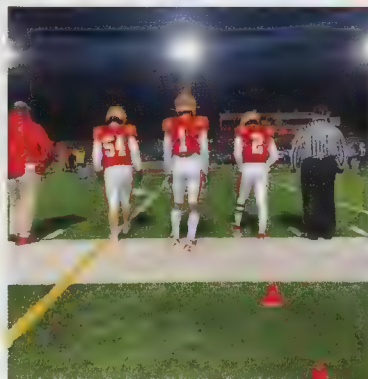
"We had a great, but short 'COVID season' by having a 13 game winning streak, so by ending with that, we came back hungrier for a real season, and we all put in the work individually with the time off. Now, it is showing, as a team, that we are 10 times more dangerous than we were during the COVID season."

Amarion Nimmers



The 2021- 2022 Rock Island Captains are Marieon Anderson and Amarion Nimmers.





MORE THAN A GAME

What makes Rock Island High School's 2021-2022 football program special? As a team, the focus is to work together in the hopes to accomplish victory. This season, the team's overall record was 6-4, and 5-3 in the Conference. That being said, not all games were victories, but that doesn't make those games any less meaningful.

Despite having a short turn around between last year's season, and this year's season, the Rocks set out to achieve every goal set in front of them. The Head Coach for the Rocks, Ben Hammer, stated, "Our team goals were to be the best versions of ourselves, and continue to improve every day. This year's group did a tremendous job working every day to improve. We fell short from time to time, but I think the team this year improved vastly." Coach Hammer tried to instill values into his players for the benefit of the football program, and for his players to have those important values later on in their lives. He stated, "Having a strong work ethic, being a team player, showing up on time, putting others before yourself, following through on what you say you will do. These are not just football skills, they are life skills."

A key part of football is experience. Upperclassmen who have played football throughout their high school careers can have a tremendous impact on their teammates who haven't. The Rocks were led by 6 captains - Eli Reese, Marleon Anderson, Xander George, Kai Rios, Jacob Rohwer, and Calvin Larson. The Rocks were also aided by some players who had not played football in awhile, but returned to the field this season. Hammer explained, "We had a bunch of players that made great impacts on our team that played football for the first time this year. Aoci Bernard was a defensive starter, and had not played in a couple of years. Baker Beal also contributed defensively, and was a first-year player. Careem Hunter did a great job contributing on offense and defense, and played for the first time. He scored a touchdown against Quincy. Raquon Patterson, Jaquai Scott, Tre Parks, and others were also first-time players this year, who did a nice job."

To be a football player is not just about playing a game. It is being a part of something that is bigger than yourself. Teamwork, drive, work ethic, and determination set the tone for the 2021 season's results. Regardless of the setbacks the COVID-19 pandemic caused, the team was able to continue, despite the challenges. Hammer stated, "We didn't really rebuild. We used the spring season as momentum moving into the fall. We were able to get more kids out to play this fall because of it." There were 143 students total that were a part of the football program for the 2021 season. Hammer expressed, "We struggled with some injuries at key times, but we did our best to have the next-man-up mentality, and play the best players we had available."

Through the ups and downs of the season, the team persevered, and did their best each game to work together, give their best efforts, and leave everything they had on the football field. The Rock Island High School Football Team is not just about a game, but about instilling goals, showing what hard work can accomplish, building bonds as teammates, and most importantly, playing the game they love. Therefore, the players' perseverance, coaching staff, support from family, friends, and peers is what made this season special, and is what will continue to make this program successful for years to come.

REBUILD



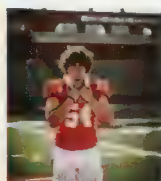
"The transition back from COVID was a little rough, but our coaches knew what they were doing, and got us on track. After the summer workouts, it was pretty easy to get into the swing of things."

- Dontrell Powers



The 2021 RIHS Football Program

CAPTAIN ROCK ISLAND



"It's a huge honor to be chosen by your teammates to be a team captain. It means a lot to me. To know that my hard work for the past four years hasn't been unnoticed. I truly love this program. I believe it's one of my best achievements in life."

Calvin Larson



"It's an honor. It's the highest rank you can be voted upon by your peers, and to be voted captain by my teammates means a lot to me."

Kai Rios



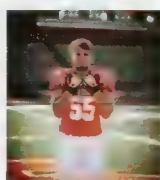
"It's an honor to be able to lead my team through wins and, sometimes, losses. What I like most about being team captain is that I know my teammates can count on me on every task at hand."

Xander George



"An honor to be looked at by my peers like that. It's very cool for people to listen to my voice for leadership."

Elijah Reese



"I feel honored to be a captain of the football team. It feels really good to know that your teammates think of you as a leader."

Jacob Rohwer



"Being awarded team captain by my peers really does feel great. To be recognized as someone who my team can look at to lead them, and set the bar for expectations, and that means a lot that they can trust me."

Marleon Anderson

REGIONAL

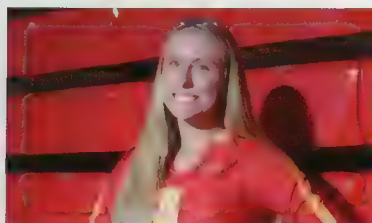


Cousins as Captains

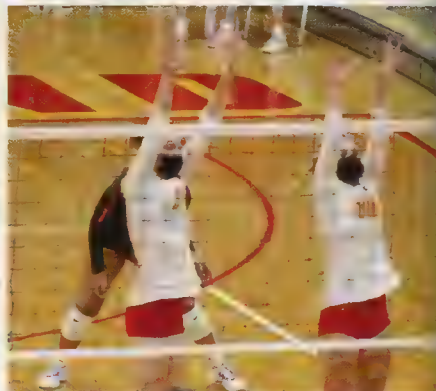
The Allison cousins explain what the title of captain means to them.



"To me, it means that I'm a role model, not only to those my age, but especially to those younger than me. It means I need to be a leader, and lead by example, and always stay positive to help my teammates."
- Emily Allison



"Being named a team captain means your coach and teammates see characteristics in you that mark you out as a good leader, a team player, and someone who the rest of the team can look up to."
- Bella Allison



REBUILD



"We are relearning how to come together as a team, community, and school. It is nice to be able to have fans after a year of a quiet gym."
- Grace Gustafson



Varsity Team

Back Row: Aodie Bomelyn, Maddie Polito, Lexi Thompson, Emily Allison, Hanna Hultgren, Grace Gustafson
Middle Row: Bella Allison, Lily DeRudder, Kayla Rice, Sophia Sigler, Jena Martel, Nevaeh Robinson-Cunningham
Front Row: Ella Munday, Sienna Mikaio, Mari Churchill



The Rock Island Volleyball Team took home the Regional Championship title against Dunlap, for the first time since 2013.



A HISTORIC SEASON

The Rock Island Volleyball Team returned this year holding absolutely nothing back. Their efforts led them to winning the Regional title for the first time in 8 years. Coach Morgan Gray could not be prouder of her team for this, as well as many other successes the team achieved this season. She states, "Placing second in Conference and earning the Regional title" was the biggest accomplishment of the season.

The team put in so much work to achieve these honors, as they were still working on rebuilding after the off season due to COVID. Gray says, "Our team rebuilt itself because we lost a lot of seniors that chose not to go out. With that, we gained some new players that filled those missing spots, and became a huge part of our success." This was not always easy. The team fought through countless obstacles, as well. Gray explains some of the team's challenges as, "Injuries and illnesses that resulted in constant lineup changes. Everyone was willing to play a new role, and fill a new position whenever I needed them to. They were always willing to roll with the punches!"

These setbacks did not stop the Rocks. Instead, the Rocks grew stronger. Their team motto was, "Respect the Rock." With this, Gray says, "Our program has been working hard to gain the respect and attention we had years ago. We did that by winning, and getting our name out there again, which made people want to come and watch us play again." The Lady Rocks did just that, and they met countless goals and achievements along the way. This group of girls had great team chemistry, and they truly did become a historic team.



Sophomore Team



Freshman Team

Back Row: Arion Lonergan, Elizabeth McCoy, Abbagale Lieber, Nina Daugherty, Grace Vidmar
Middle Row: Maddie Carroll, Rowan Perion, Allison Drish, Breana Reymer, Kylie Melchi
Front Row: Aundrea Doss, Johnnieeah Campbell, Isabella Adner, Reagan Hawotte, Ku Ku Moo

GIRLS SOCCER 2022



REBUILD



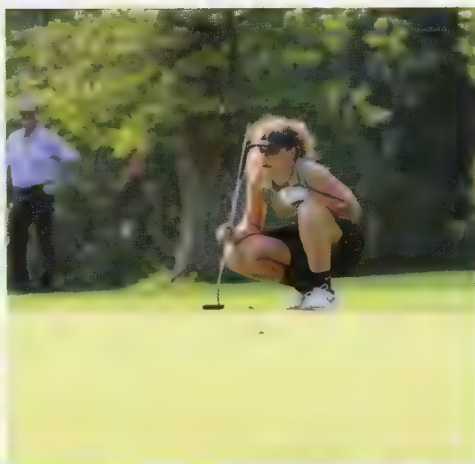
"I love how close each and everyone one of us are. Even if we have a small team, it makes us closer."

- Jozie Kerr



Leading from THE START

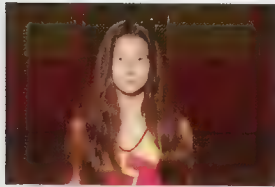
Freshman Jozie Kerr proved herself to be a significant contributor to the Lady Rocks Golf Team, as she competed as the #1 golfer for the Rocks this year. However, Jozie is no stranger to golf, as her grandmother introduced her to the game at the age of 7. She explains her favorite aspect of the game, stating, "I love how every day is a new day. I can go from shooting in the 50s, to shooting in the 40s in a day. I also love the bonds you make with so many new people that you will hold on to until my senior year." Even as a freshman, Kerr has big plans for her future in the game. She hopes to make it to state by her senior year.



Charting a New Course

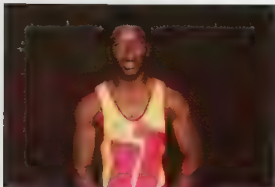
This year, the Lady Rocks were under new leadership with the hiring of Head Coach, Julie Hudnall. The young team not only learned the game of golf, but also learned to be prepared for anything, as the COVID 19 Pandemic was still an issue during the season. Coach Hudnall stated, "We had a couple COVID interferences, as well as some new players to the game of golf. So really, starting from the beginning, teaching to be prepared to handle all aspects of a golf meet was a big challenge." Despite these challenges, the girls had a lot to take pride in during their season. Led by Chloe Turner and Jozie Kerr, the Lady Rocks recorded two Conference victories, and almost qualified an athlete for Sectionals. Coach Hudnall is excited for the program's future, as well as the development of her athletes. She explained, "My goal for my athletes is to learn how to play the game of golf, as well as be an advocate for girls golf at Rock Island High School. Many opportunities lie in the golf world, plus, it is a lifelong sport that you can enjoy! We also learned how to do things right, take care of our clubs, uniforms, actions, and buses. Representing ourselves well to make Rock Island proud!"

State Qualifiers 2022



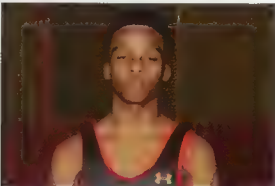
"Wrestling as the first female at Rocky means the world to me. Ever since I was five, my life goal has been to wrestle in high school, and get my name on the board, to carve a pathway for other females wrestlers, and change how others look at wrestling."

Rebecca Ferguson, Rocky's 1st Female State Medallist



"Winning State was the greatest feeling of my life. I couldn't believe it. Everything I've worked so hard for was right in my hands. It's every high schooler's dream. I made that dream come true. I was blessed to be surrounded by friends and family to celebrate my win. That was a moment that will go down in history, and a moment that will live in my heart forever."

Aoci Bernard, State Champion



"Wrestling for Rocky means a lot. I've been coached by the best coaches I could ever ask for, they have taught me so much on and off the mat."

Truth Vesey, State Qualifier

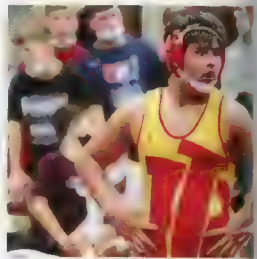
A HISTORY MAKING SEASON

Rocky's 2021-22 season was one for the record books. Senior Aoci Bernard won State. Senior Rebecca Ferguson became the first female wrestler at Rocky to medal at State, and the team qualified for the Dual Team State Tournament.

Led by Sammy Niyonkuru and Aoci Bernard, the team finished the season with a 15-9 record, and finished 2nd in Conference. Coach Stockwell stated, "I am most proud of those that were dedicated enough to finish the season in its entirety."

He certainly has many athletes to be proud of. He explained, "To date, our biggest accomplishment is making it to IHSA Dual Team State for the first time since 1992. We also qualified 4 wrestlers for the individual IHSA State Tournament, and crowning our first champ in 10 years (Aoci Bernard)." Truth Vesey, a sophomore, also had a standout season as a State Qualifier, as well as Daniel McGhee, who recorded 39 wins for the Rocks. Andrew Marquez, another sophomore, followed closely with 36 wins.

The team overcame the challenge of a quick turnaround from last season, losing wrestlers, and adjusting to a normal schedule again. The team participated in three different State tournaments. The team also continued their tradition of excellence and dedication. Coach Stockwell explained what he hopes his athletes learn from his program, stating, "We speak about this almost daily in our room. I hope they learn not to be afraid of hard work. Sometimes, you have to learn how to deal with, and realize, it's ok to be uncomfortable. It is part of the process of growing into a successful adult. If they can wrestle 4 years for Rock Island High School, then they are prepared for any adversity life can throw at them."



REBUILD

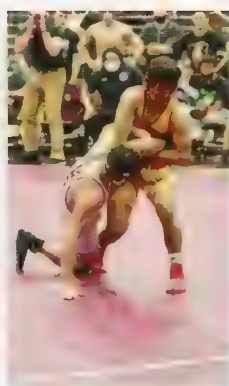


"It was difficult transitioning back to a winter season. We did not finish last season until July. We then, started back up in October. It was a quick turnaround.

Also, last year, there were no tournaments, besides the post season, so many of our new wrestlers were not prepared to wrestle 5 matches in a single day."

- Coach Stockwell





LEADING THE ROCKS

Rocky's Wrestling program is led by Head Coach Joel Stockwell, who is in his 13th year coaching for the Rocks, and his 23rd year coaching, overall.



For the RIHS Wrestling coaches, the sport is more than just an activity, it's a passion. Coach Stockwell explains, "I feel wrestling is one of the most physically and mentally demanding sports on the planet. So, it is very rewarding to watch the wrestlers compete and succeed. I enjoy helping them set goals, work hard, and reach those goals. What keeps me coaching is keeping up with wrestlers that wrestled all 4 years for me and the program. All of them grow into successful adults with careers and families." Similarly, Coach Riccio explains his dedication to coaching the sport, stating, "I enjoy getting to know the students/athletes on a personal level. Helping them achieve their goals, and seeing them grow as students, athletes, and most importantly, people. I also enjoy giving back to the program for which I wrestled." While the team's record is certainly important to the success of the Rocks each season, Coach Stockwell also recognizes that the impact of wrestling goes beyond the time on the mats, stating, "I hope they learn not to be afraid of hard work. That sometimes, you have to learn how to deal with, and realize it's ok to be uncomfortable. It is part of the process of growing into a successful adult. If they can wrestle 4 years for Rock Island High School, then they are prepared for any adversity life can throw at them."

WRESTLING ROCKS

Rocky's Wrestling Program returns to the mats after an adjusted season, ready to take on any opponent, and ready to continue its tradition of excellence.



For the Lady Rocks, Court is in Session

New additions to the Lady Rocks Tennis Team, as well as veterans, make an impact on the Rocky Tennis Courts.

Led by Alexis Engels, Alayna McKinley, and Mimi Oo, the Lady Rocks finished their tennis season with a 4-6 overall record, and a 2-4 record in the Western Big 6 Conference. Coach Gabany stated that his proudest moment for his team was, "We won two doubles matches in the Sectional tournament, and were one win away from the State tournament for both of our doubles teams."

In the 2021 season, the Lady Rocks faced many challenges, including creatively scheduling partners in doubles matches when athletes were out due to sickness, as the COVID-19 pandemic was still an issue for many teams during the season. Gabany stated, "Like most teams, we had to maneuver around people missing from practices/meets/tournaments due to illnesses, which made it difficult for doubles. Some players had to play with teammates who they would not normally play with."

Despite these challenges, Coach Gabany was impressed with how his team adapted. He explained that Alexis Engels, Leah Kitterman, and Elaina Adlfinger were new to the team, but had a major impact on the team's success. He also stated, "We had several players graduate last season, some younger players had to step into the Varsity lineup, and learn and grow as the season progressed."

Gabany has high hopes for the future of the Lady Rocks Tennis program, and hopes that his athletes continue to grow in the sport, long after they have left RHHS. "Hard work pays off. We like to promote tennis as a life-long sport because it can be played at any age. One of our goals is for the players to be able to understand and appreciate the game of tennis," Gabany stated.

REBUILD



"Our team is rebuilding in a lot of ways. We have a new sense of importance and reality that our sports really are luxuries, and we are super lucky to have these opportunities at Rocky. We have new players from other schools, and ones coming up that we expected, and I think a new outlook as to what we each can bring to tennis, and be successful playing, as either singles or doubles."

Alayna McKinley, 10



Lady Rocks

"To me, being on the Rocky tennis team means that I got the opportunity to play more of the sport I love, and that I got to create new friendships with the others on the team."
Elaina Adlfinger



"Being on Rocky's tennis team means playing with my best friend, and being able to go against my friends from other teams. This tennis team means a lot to me!"
Kyi Man



"Being on the tennis team means a lot to me. It's my favorite sport, and we're all one big family."
Chloe Cooper



"It means a lot because it was an accomplishment of mine to be on Varsity as a freshman, and I accomplished it by being number 2."
Leah Kitterman



"It feels nice to be a part of something, and to share something in common with the rest of the girls. It's my favorite part of the school year!"
Monzerrat Meza-Pena

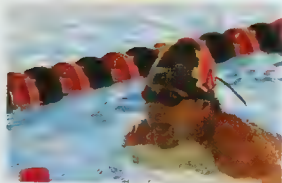


"Being on Rocky's tennis team is a really nice experience. You get to be around people who enjoy the sport, and meet new people from different places. That's why I decided to keep joining every year."
Paw She Htoo



ROCKIN' THE COURT

LEADERS



Peh Lay has been swimming for 4 years. Peh Lay expressed that, "It feels great, but it's not normal being back." Peh Lay is grateful that he gets to see his friends, and is ready to compete again. He advises future Rocks that, "If you want to swim and be competitive, you have to be able to commit 100% of your time."



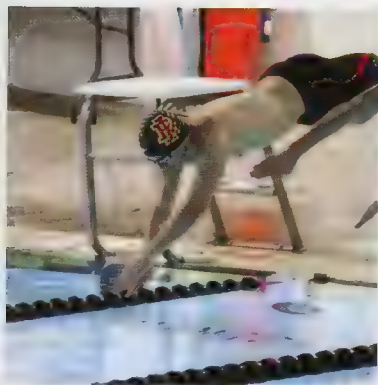
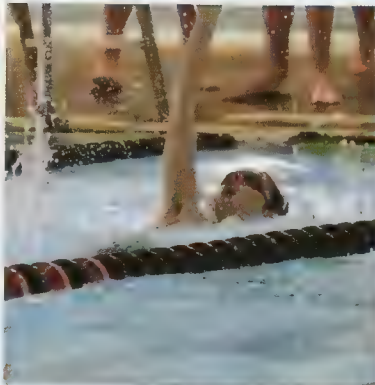
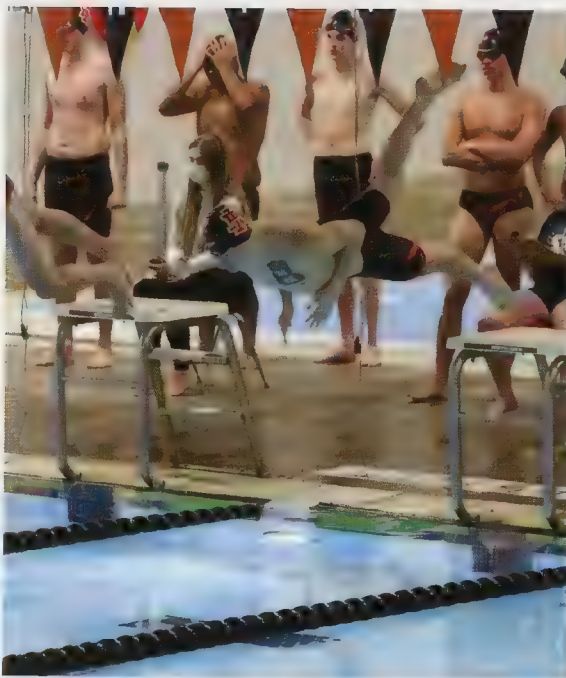
Tyler Wolf has been swimming for 4 years. Tyler explained that, "It feels pretty good to be back in the pool after COVID. It's nice having an actual season this year." Tyler advises future Rocky swimmers to, "Keep going. Swim season can get draining, but keep pushing yourself, it gets better, and more fun."

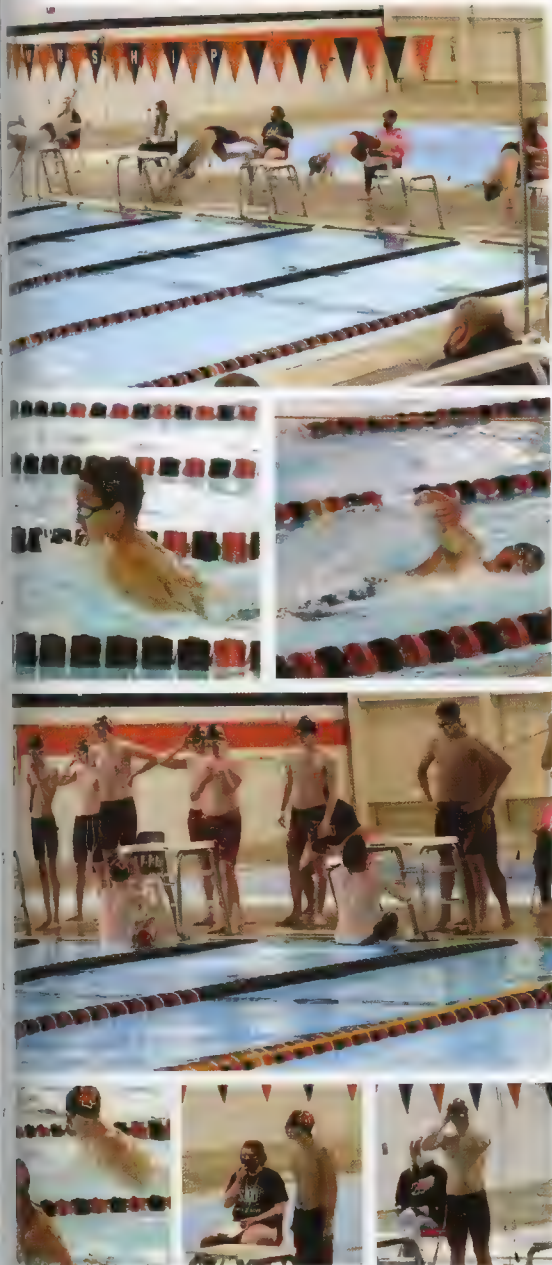
REBUILD



"Just taking it a day at a time. Most of the boys have been vaccinated. We had a few quarantined, which set us back. The boys team has been hurt worse by not having a pool. We lost the old Augie pool after 3 weeks also, which gave us not real good time slots for practice in the new Augie pool."

- Coach Busch





NO POOL, NO PROBLEM

The Rocks deal with an unusual season, where they had no home pool to use, but still improved their skills.

Rocky's Boys Swimming and Diving Team had an unusual season, and not just because they had to continue to deal with COVID restrictions, like other teams. This year, the boys were displaced from their home pool because of renovations and ceiling issues that made using Rocky's pool impossible. Instead, they utilized Augustana's pool for practices every day. Coach Busch explained, "We did not have a pool, then had a pool, then didn't have the pool, then moved to another pool, practice times changed, COVID, and we still managed to get to the end of the year and remain competitive."

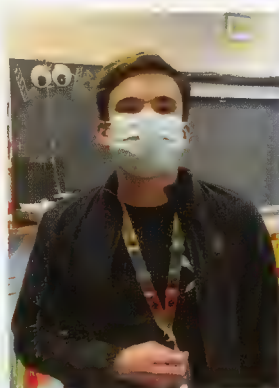
Despite these challenges, the boys finished 1-5 for the season, and placed 4th in the WB6. Coach Busch was impressed with his athletes' dedication and ability to adapt during a tough season. He stated the team's greatest accomplishment was, "The kids still wanting to make improvements during the season, even through the challenges with practices." Lucas Rettig was named WB6 Swimmer of the Year at the Conference Swim Meet, which was voted on by the swim coaches. He was less than a second off meeting the State qualifying time in both the 100 Butterfly and 100 Breaststroke.

The team's captains included Peh Lay and Tyler Wolf. Coach Busch explained that they were "hard workers in practices and meets." The team also had several swimmers make a positive impact on the team. Coach Busch stated, "Julian Lopez and Egan Westmorland improved our freestyle events and relays, Peh Lay in the breaststroke event, and Jude Rowell helped us out this year."

Not only did the team improve, but Coach Busch hopes his athletes "learn discipline, responsibility, and being held accountable to their teammates. There are rules in life, and you need to be able to follow them, just as there are rules on a team that have to be followed for the good of the team and themselves," he explained.

WB6 SWIMMER of the year

Junior, Lucas Rettig was named Western Big 6 Swimmer of the Year for his achievements during the 21-22 season.



"The best memory of the season would have to be getting to be a part of the team, although due to COVID last year, I had to sit out, but swimming is my passion, and I just had to participate again!"

- Julian Lopez

MAKING MEMORIES

A Part of the Team

"Being a part of the Lady Rocks Swim Team means a lot to me because I know that when I got to practice, we will have a good workout and have fun. The team atmosphere makes practice enjoyable on the hardest days, and I know we all play an important part within the team."

Bailey Hecker



"Being a part of the Lady Rocks is almost like a family to me. I do everything with them. We're all always there for each other. I think the team, as a whole, has a very close bond. Some of my best friends are on that team. We always encourage each other to do our best. I think being on this team was a great decision for me to make."

Ava Dietz



"Being a part of the swim team is a very special thing to be a part of because whether you are on junior varsity or varsity, your placement matters. I think all of us have a lot of pride for being on the team. We are all one team. We all care and root for each other."

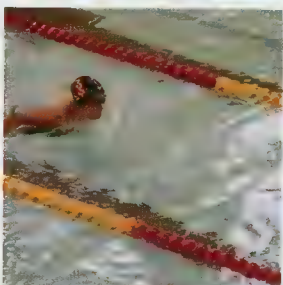
Katie Kavanaugh



HUDDLE HUDDLE



While swimming is often thought of as an individual sport, the team bond within the Lady Rocks Swimming and Diving Team is strong. The ladies huddle up before meets to cheer and hype themselves up for their competition. The Lady Rocks also had many team traditions, including fish feeds and many post season rituals.



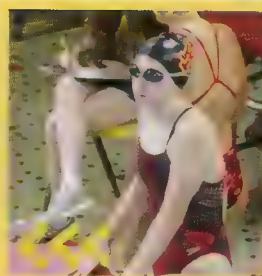


"My favorite memory from this year has been all of our fish feeds and team gatherings we missed last year."
Olivia Sholl

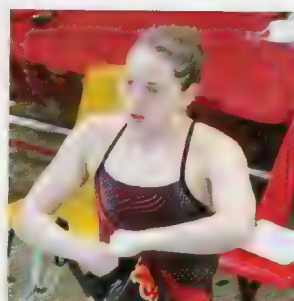


"Being a part of the swim team is really important to me because all of the girls have become family, and I couldn't imagine going through the swim season without them."
Laci Hickenbottom

REBUILD



"After last year, we got to go back to our traditional team bonding stuff, like our fish feeds!"
- Olivia Sholl, 12



MAKING WAVES

The Lady Rocks Swim Team had another successful season in the pool. The ladies finished the season with a 2-4 record in dual meets, a fourth place finish in Conference, and a 7th place finish at the Sectional Meet. Coach Dave Busch stated, "We swam season best times at the Conference meet, and lifetime best times at the Sectional swim meet. We struggled a little bit during the season, but really finished the season with two strong meets. We were led by our top scorers Olivia Sholl, Bailey Hecker, and Ava Dietz."

Led by Hecker, Sholl, and Dietz, the ladies were also aided by newcomers, Lily Hayes in diving, and Lizzie Shorten in the distance free. Throughout the season, the girls had one objective- "Just to get faster at each meet, and by end of the year, be the fastest ever. We had good progress over the course of the year," explained Busch.

The Lady Rocks were happy to be in front of spectators again, and have a somewhat normal season. Coach Busch did explain that the team struggled with numbers and quarantine at various points.

However, the girls persevered and found success. Coach Busch is proud of his athletes, and hopes they continue in the program, and learn, "That working hard and being disciplined will lead you to personal success."



"Being a part of the Rock Island Girls Basketball Team is like being a part of another family. We could be a little dysfunctional, but we always find a way to come together, play together, and just be there for each other."
Brionique Stewart, 12



"It's fun. I think we've grown and matured as a team, collectively. This team showed me what being part of a team really is- from team dinners, to celebrating in the locker room after a win, etc. I'm excited to see what is in store for us next year!"
Daneen Robinson, 11



"Being a part of the Rock Island Girls Basketball Team is like being a part of another family. We ride or die with each other and always have one another's backs."
Emily Allison, 12



ROCKY ROOKIES



PLAYING UP:

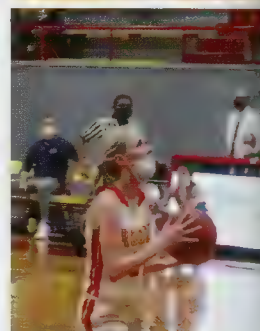
Fidelia Awoudi and Giselle Aceviz, two underclassmen, played up at the Varsity level this year. They are paving the way for the next generation of Lady Rocks with their early experience on the Varsity level.



The Lady Rocks Rely On Their Family Mentality To Find Success

TW3: TOGETHER WE WILL WIN

This year was very special for the Lady Rocks Basketball Team. Due to a disrupted two years due to COVID, they were finally able to play a regular season. Even with the privilege to play in a regular season, they were faced with some challenges in the beginning. Coach Hall explained those challenges, stating, "The adversity of injuries we faced. Losing Mariyah McQueen at the Red/Gold Game to a non contact injury REALLY was hard for our team and staff. We rallied around her, but it was just the beginning of our bad luck with injuries and sickness." Even with a rough start in the beginning of their season, the Lady Rocks finished with an overall record of 19-12, which was a big achievement for the team. "I think the fact that we finished 19-12, with having, by far, the toughest schedule in State 3A teams. We played 15 teams that were ranked in the top 10 in the state at one time in 3A or 4A. We played the number one team in 4A (Benet Academy), and played the number one team in 3A three times, (Geneseo twice, split with them), and Peoria High, the first game of the season," stated Coach Hall. The captains, Emily Allison and Imari McDuffy, played a big role in the Rocks' success. Both senior captains having positive attitudes and great leadership skills helped keep the girls together during tough times. "Our senior captains, Emily Allison and Imari 'Woo' McDuffy. Emily leads by example. She works super hard and is basketball IQ smart. Imari leads on the court. She is a 4 year starter, and we trust her with everything we do," explained Coach Hall. Even with the bad luck in the beginning of the season and some challenging moments, the team stayed together, and made the most out of the first regular season they've had in two years. Next year, the Lady Rocks will look to their current juniors for leadership. Coach Hall explained, "Kayla Rice didn't play last year due to injury. Juniors, Ta'Miah Jamison and Mackenzie Meirhaeghe were big for us all year. We will build around them, along with other returners, and kids from other lower grades."





"I think there is a certain pride you get when you are a part of the Lady Rocks Team. You put on that jersey, and you know that you are a part of a long tradition of successful basketball."

Wackenzé Melmeaghe, 11



"It's great. They're always there for me, no matter the circumstances. I have the best memories with this team, and I am sad to see the seniors leave."

Kayla Rice, 11



"Being a part of the Rock Island Girls Basketball Team is amazing because you are now part of a legacy. It has shaped me into the leader and person I am today."

Imari McDuffy, 12



REBUILD



"I think we are still in a transition since the Pandemic hit our world and program. Even how we practice has changed a bit due to all the contact tracing that has to be done at the high school. I believe we have done a good job during these transitions, and have to hope that this summer, we can have a normal, and productive plan in place."

- Coach Hall

THE CAPTAINS OF THE LADY ROCKS



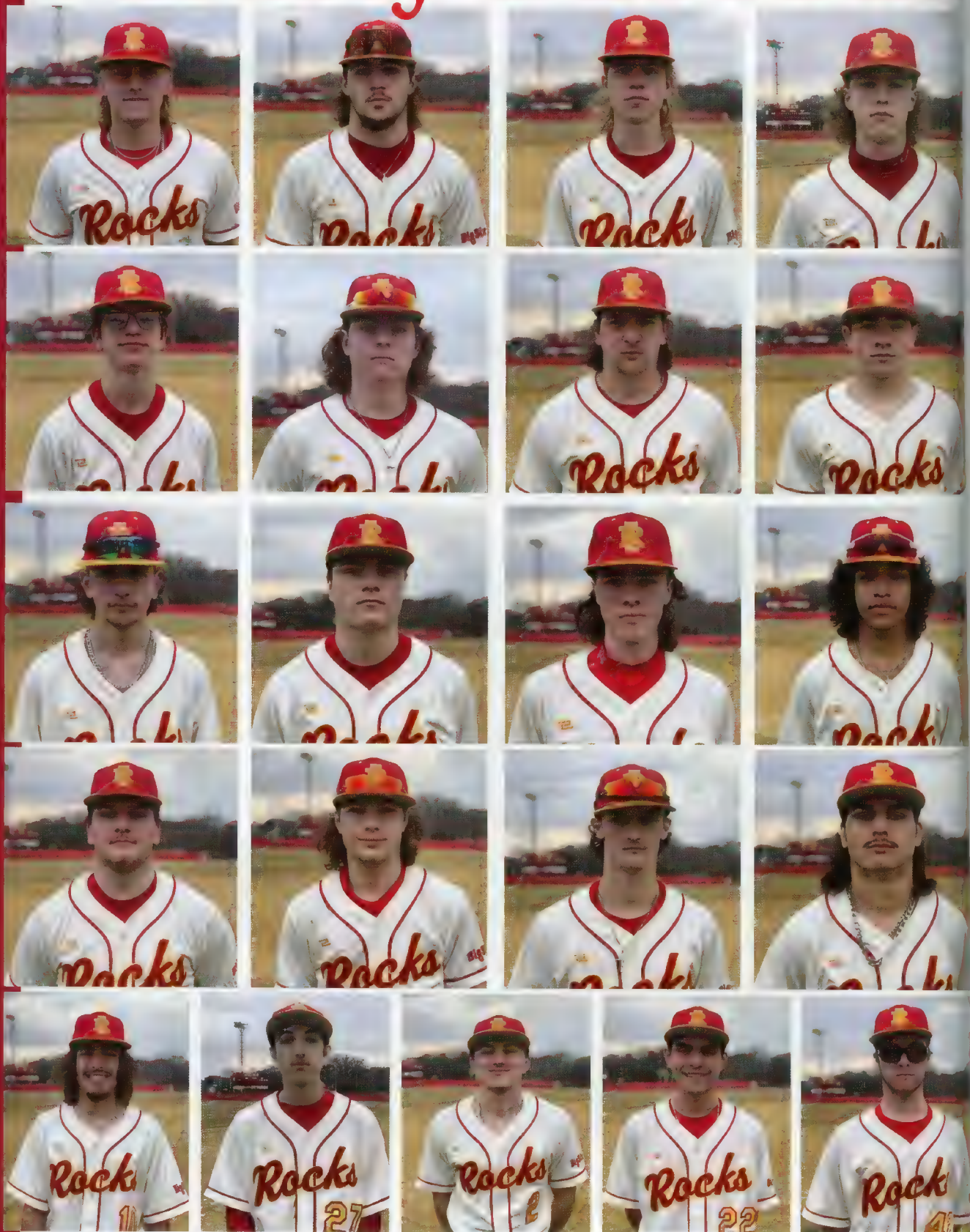
Emily Allison, 12



Imari McDuffy, 12



Varsity Baseball



Varsity Girls Track & Field



Varsity Boys Track





RIHS BOYS' BOWLING

In his first year leading the Rocks, Coach Tapscott put in a lot of effort to help the Rocks find success in the lanes. He stated, "This was my first year to the program, so I'm not aware of how COVID impacted the team during 2020. However, we had a nice mix of boys from freshmen through seniors, some of whom were returning bowlers."

The team had one person qualify as an individual to the Sectional Tournament. Sean-Anthony Jackson qualified to represent the Rocks in the post season. The team gradually improved during the course of this year. This season, the team was led by Edgar Granberry and Tyler Spence, who have greatly made an impact on the season this year, Tapscott explained.

Coach Tapscott stated that, "Watching the young bowlers and several beginners improve their skills, and learn the fundamentals of the sport," was his favorite memory.

Coach Tapscott hopes his athletes learn "that dedication, practice, and hard work will take you a long way--never give up on a dream. As far as the sport of bowling, I hope that I was able to instill the fundamental skills of the game that they can take with them, as they go forward in life."

REBUILD



"They went out, and got a lot of new faces to make the team fresh and new."
- Doniere McNeal

MAKING YOUR

This Bowling Season



"Getting better. My starting average was 120. I ended with 150."
- CJ Grandberry



"My greatest achievement is getting a 198 in a tournament."
- Zachery Draper



"Bowling at Regionals."
- Nathan Hendrickx



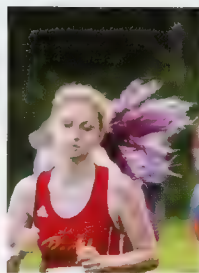
"Probably when I got on Varsity for one of our meets."
- Brian Reed

ROCKS Running

The Lady Rocks explain what they enjoy most about being a part of Rocky's Cross Country Team.

"My favorite part of being on the team is being a part of a team with some of my best friends, and being involved in my school."

Maddie Maidak

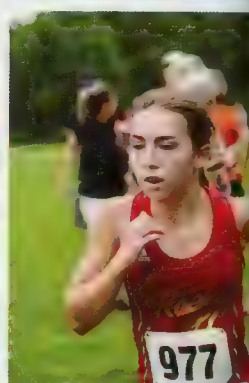


"Being a Rocky Cross Country runner means that even though you may not think you can run 3 miles, everyone has the ability to be able to run your heart out."

Makenzie Terry

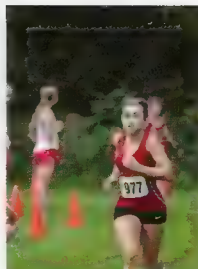


The Boys and Girls Cross Country Teams do a lot to develop team chemistry with their own teams and with each other. They spend a lot of the summer together during work outs, complete community service projects together, and compete together, as well. Both teams truly work to become a XC family.



"It means running your best to represent, and making sure that you are proud of your race. It's also kind of humbling because you will train, and then you will go out there, and there are other teams that are really good, but I feel that competing against them offers great opportunities. Running for Rocky is really fun, as well, because of the people. The team is great, and I've had a lot of fun hanging out with them."

Eva Essman



"I love being on the Rocky Cross Country Team because it's like one big family, and everyone is just there having a good time, while they're running. There's no other team like the cross country team."

Mackenzie Meirhaeghe



REBUILD



"As a team, we were able to get together more often. We ran more, we did more team activities to bond, and we helped build each other up for a more competitive season."

- Mackenzie Meirhaeghe



Small, but Mighty

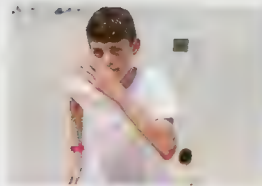
Coach Williams takes a lot of pride in her "small, but mighty team" for the 2021 Girls Cross Country season. She stated, "It was the first time they competed alongside 7 or 50 other teams. We had the opportunity to race against our Conference teams, but many like us had barely enough girls to score as a team. We went into the season with the ability to be anywhere from 3rd to 7th in Conference, as it was all a matter of a few points. We ended up 6th out of 8 in our WB6 Conference. Many of the girls will be back next year, as we will only be losing one senior. This is exciting, and should help with next year's competition."

The team was led by captain Mackenzie Meirhaeghe, with freshman Olivia Kargl also having a very positive impact on the team's success.

Runner Norah Wright qualified for Sectionals, a feat the team had not accomplished last year.

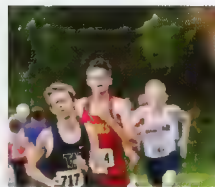
Regardless of the challenges the team faced, Coach Williams stated, "The girls become like family, and they all look out for each other. The amount of encouragement in the team is truly what I hope they get from the program. How to be kind and help each other get through the tough times in life."





RUNNING FOR THE ROCKS

"We're a very open and close group, and everyone is very encouraging, so not only do I get to be a part of a great and talented team, but I'm also a part of a group that has a strong bond with one another, and there's a lot of pride when being on the team."
JP Putnam



"To run and be part of the Rocky Cross Country program means an opportunity to run for more than myself. We had a young group this year, which allows us to be very optimistic about the success of this program in the next few years."
Asa Mann



MORE THAN A TEAM



JP Putnam volunteers with the XC team at a grade school in the district. The team participates in many community service projects throughout the season.

Cross Country at RIHS is not simply about running, but about forming bonds, helping the community, and, of course, beating your times. Coach Williams stated, "We usually bond quite a bit at team dinners and on bus rides. I try to encourage school and community pride by asking the team to walk in the RI Labor Day Parade and the RIHS Homecoming Parade. I also encourage our guys to be civic-minded through volunteer opportunities."

While the team did return some athletes, overall, the boys were a young team. "We had 13 guys on the team. Only four had any varsity experience, and three earned varsity letters last year. We were really young. Our top seven guys were three freshmen, three sophomores, and a senior," Williams explained. However, JP Putnam, Asa Mann, Ian Regur, and Roland Ullrick led their team to a 7th place finish in Conference, 4th place team finish in the Freshman/Sophomore division of the Rock River Run, and two individual qualifiers from the IHSA Regional Meet to the IHSA Sectional Meet.

Of course, Coach Williams is happy to see his athletes grow as people and continue to progress as runners. He states, "I hope my guys make long-lasting connections with their teammates. I hope they develop a true sense of Rocky Pride (like I have as a Rock Island High School graduate, who ran cross country and track here). I also hope I positively contributed to their growth as young adults."



While the team doesn't run in the QC Marathon, they do help at the event each year. The team gets up early to cheer on runners, hand out water, and help clean up.



The team travels to the Dunes each year before the season starts to have a beach workout, and then have a lot of fun for a beach day!

REBUILD



"I think the way we functioned as a team didn't differ too much from last year to this, so we got lucky in that aspect of the season. Although we had dual meets last year, which means we only got to compete with one team every meet, now that we're back to our original schedule this year of facing multiple teams at once. We got to learn more of our placement, and push ourselves more, which I think helped us out a lot. It was a big change, but I think we handled it well in the end."

- JP Putnam

Traditional Team Dinners



A RIHS Cross Country Team tradition is their team dinners. This year, the team often had the dinners outside, in front of the girls gym. This allowed for a safe environment, where the team could still be together, but follow COVID 19 protocols. The team worked to still have their fun team bonding events, but also stay safe during the pandemic.



RIHS Soccer



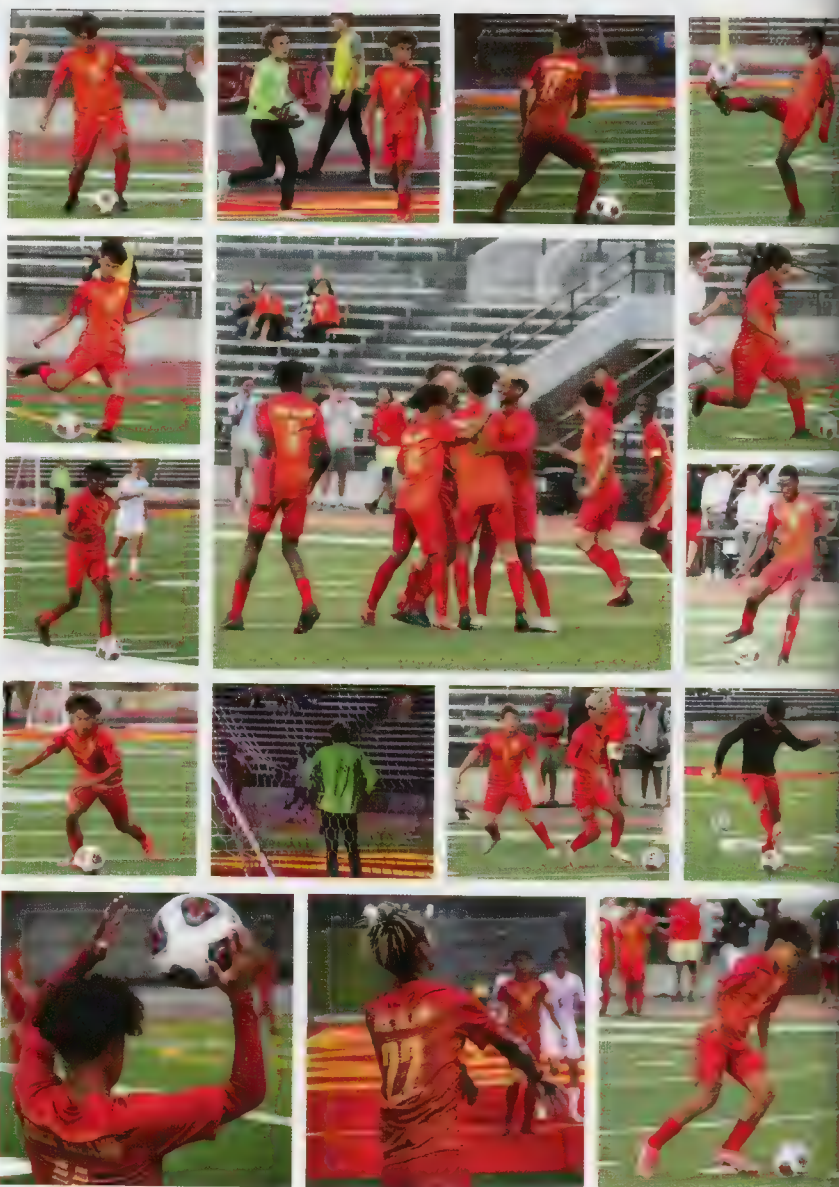
VARSITY TEAM



JUNIOR VARSITY TEAM



FRESHMAN TEAM



REBUILD



"We have lost a good amount of people due to the pandemic, but luckily, we have a lot of freshmen this year, so we have a future, and us seniors are showing them how to put the work in, and what it takes to be successful."

Alejandro Torres, 12



"What being a captain means to me is I have to be a leader, and set an example for the underclassmen that are the future of the program, leaving them in the right place to continue the program's success without us seniors."

Zachary Beckman, 12

4

Meet the Captain



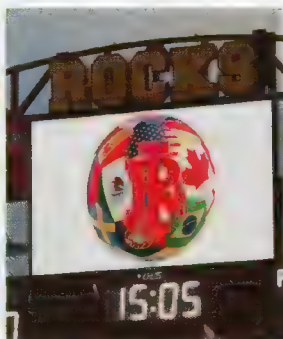
ROCKS UNITED

Finishing the season healthy and in a positive way was one of goals that was set for this season by Coach Almanza and the team. Coach Almanza has been coaching soccer for 20 years, and said the most rewarding part of being a coach is, "Watching progress happen right in front of your eyes. Having the opportunity to be a part of that growth and development is more than rewarding. It is an accomplishment that cannot be forgotten." Coach Almanza has certainly fostered an atmosphere of respect and community within his team.

"Having the team wrap around the Rock, connecting their fists together, and me giving them their final pep talk before we line up in the tunnel, to take the field," and "Communication activities," are Coach Almanza and Reponse Muhoza's favorite team traditions they will remember from this season.

Before a big game, "Preparation is everything!" says Coach Almanza. The practice before a big game is a light practice. The boys stretch, and have a discussion about the expectations for each other and the team, as a whole.

The Rocks clearly prepared well for this season, and adapted to any changes that came their way. The overall record for this season was 10-7-1, and the Conference record was 5-2-2. Reponse Muhoza explains that his favorite memory from the season is, "Working as a team, and winning games together." The bus rides, team dinners, and team bonding get together are always filled with a lot of laughs and great conversations that the boys will remember, but "Watching my team grow and develop as a unit will always be a favorite memory of mine," explains Coach Almanza.



When boarding the bus to a Dunlap game, the bus driver refused to allow Rocky player, Gabriel Albarran, who was carrying a Mexican flag for Mexican Independence Day, to get on the bus. At the next home game, many people from the community came to support the team, and were encouraged to bring flags from other countries to celebrate Rocky's diversity. Gabriel Albarran says, "I was really thankful to see that people care, and they supported me through the whole situation."





The Senior Cheerleaders pose next to their senior poster they get to run through at their last home game.



Jade Gasper fiercely hits a toe-touch basket for the crowd.



The Varsity Cheerleaders perform a kick line for the Homecoming Pep Rally on Almquist Field.



The Varsity Cheerleaders lead the football student section in the traditional cheer, "Rocktown Spirit."



Varsity Football Cheer

Back Row:

Brenna Anderson, Abigail Hillyer, Kamara Sakho, Nevaeh McQuay, Josie Driskill

Middle Row:

Eva Essman, Mallory Day, Jaiden Womack, Kaiya McKinley, Kenzie Crimmins

Front Row:

Jade Gasper & Mackenzie Kreger



THIS IS OUR HOUSE

Junior Varsity Team

Back Row: Halle Bobb, Cheyeane Stanley, & Kyra Allen.

Middle Row: Madelynn Hayes, Dylan Frantz, & Alexis Buzea

Front Row: Haley Scott & Kenedi Young



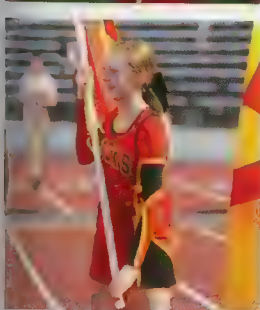
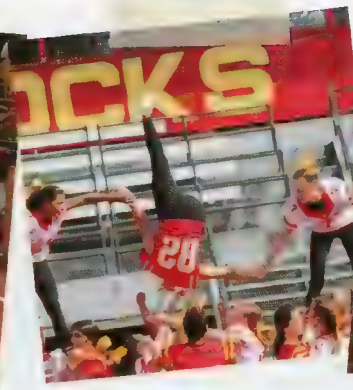
Freshman Team:

Back Row: Nickijah Bryant, Zoe Bradley, & Stanasia Knight

Center: Cecilia Padilla

Front Row: Jayla Johnson-Coleman & Jaida Thompson





Here in Cheer

After a shortened season last year, the Rock Island Cheerleaders are back, and better than ever! Coach Daniel Anaya says the ultimate goal for the season was, "To get everyone back together, working on things we missed out on last year." And the Rocky Cheerleaders did just that. Daniel says that his favorite part about coaching a high school team is, "The experience level I see throughout the students is something I enjoy coaching."

Seniors Jaiden Womack and Mackenzie Kreger both say their favorite part about this season was performing the Senior Night halftime routine! Senior Francisca Ibarra says, "My favorite part was FNL, and going to away games. I also enjoyed getting back into cheer after the pandemic, and feeling normal again." Senior Kenzie Crimmins says, "My favorite part was being able to have my last cheer season with friends. I wouldn't trade it for the world." Coach Anaya says that he sees senior Mallory Day as a good leader because she is always willing to help out.

Coach Anaya says, "Cheer is something near and dear to my heart, as it has been for the past 10 years. It is a sport that takes dedication and commitment. It pushes athletes to be their very best."

REBUILD



"It's been more difficult because we haven't been able to do as many team bondings as we have in the past to really get that family feeling, but either way, we all still love cheer, and being around each other."
- Mackenzie Kreger



A BOWLER'S

BEST FRIEND

Olivia Sholl and "Dumbo"



Mahela Hewitt and "Tale To"



Remi Engeland and "Scarlet"



Bailey Hecker and "Lassie"



STRIKING MEMORIES



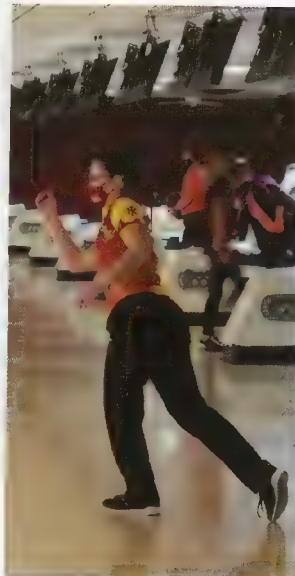
Phoebe Fuller, 12

"One day at practice, we heard the boys counting their stretches super loudly and aggressively. Ever since then, we copy that energy while stretching, no matter if we're at practice, a dual meet, or a tournament. I can never look at Mahela while we do it, because she fully commits, and I burst out in laughter every time."



Anna Vermeire, 12

"My favorite memory was on the way to our Palatine Meet. Our bus was too small, and we had to take turns sleeping on the floor."

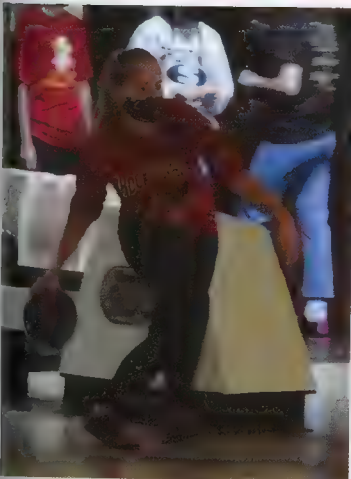


This year, the Rocks Girl's Bowling Team went far with star bowlers of all ages. Coach Jim Braet said, "Bailey Sholl, Bailey Hecker, and Makenzie Terry joined our starting lineups, and added greatly to our 4 seniors this year."

A great team must also have great leaders. "Livy Sholl and Carli Gordon were our captains this year. At State, we posted our best teams of the season, and Carli Gordon made the final cut for individuals," Braet stated.

With great captains and coaches, the team ended their season with a 9-2 record for dual meets, placed 1st in Conference, 2nd in Regionals, 4th in Sectionals, and ended up bowling at State. But those aren't their only accomplishments. "I hope my bowlers learn to enjoy the sport. I hope the bowlers learn the importance of being part of a team, working together to accomplish a common goal, and hope they realize they were an important part of the team, whether they were the low average or the star bowler," Braet stated.

After a fulfilling 2021-22 season, this team will continue to thrive with younger generations of talented bowlers, continuing on with the support of their alumni and community.



Bailey Hecker, 11

"At practice one time, we all talked in Southern accents."



Carli Gordon, 12

"We were riding on a bus to a meet, and we heard a weird noise. The exhaust pipe fell off the bus and was dragging on the road. The bus driver just put it in the trunk with our bowling balls."



"We all started talking a lot more at practices, and even in the group chat. We are all able to cheer each other on a lot better, and that helped with rebuilding."

- Olivia Sholl, 12

Highlight of basketball games



"Being involved with the crowd, excitement, and energy of the game. Getting to be on the sidelines with my friends is super fun, and it's a really great experience."

Isabella Adner, 9



"I love getting to interact with the student section, and seeing them get excited whenever we shoot a basket."

Halle Bobb, 10



"Getting to see the tension at the games, and cheer on our team!"

Jaida Thompson, 9



"My favorite part is engaging with the crowd!"

Darlene Irankunda, 9



"Seeing the parents and students excited for our cheers, and for the basketball games."

Angel Ralston, 11



"My favorite part of cheering at basketball games is doing stomp cheers."

Madelynn Hayes, 10

"GIVE US EVERYTHING YOU'VE GOT"

The 2021-22 Competition Cheerleading season brought many challenges, but the cheerleaders pushed through, and by the end of the season, "They performed the best I have ever seen, and I could not be more proud of them," explained Coach Kavasias Washington.

The team had to change their routine every week due to ineligibility, injuries, and COVID. It was a struggle, but the team didn't let that take them down. From changing the routine the night before a competition, to changing in five minutes before a performance, the cheerleaders found solutions to every problem that was thrown their way by working hard at every practice daily "to look good and keep up with the changes," said Coach Washington.

One of the biggest goals the team had this season was to get their first trophy, and they did just that at their first competition. The cheerleaders placed fifth at their season opening competition, and a second goal they had was to continue getting better at each following competition.

Managing a schedule and staying organized while doing a sport can be tough. Between the "4-5 hour practices, 4-5 days out of the week, on top of games on Tuesdays, Fridays, and Saturdays some weeks," Coach Washington said the team pushed through, and stayed committed to make it to the end of the season. She explained their hard work paid off, and they can do anything they put their minds to.

Coach Washington said that she wanted her athletes to understand that competitive cheerleading is a sport, despite what anyone says. She states, "This is a hard sport, and I don't want them to ever let anyone take that away from them because they went through a season of nothing but hard work and commitment, and giving it their all."

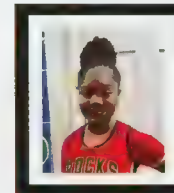




Farewell, Class of 2022 Cheerleaders

"I'll miss the underclassmen girls. I grew such a good bond with them, and I am happy they trust me a lot with their stunts and talking to me. It definitely changed my experience as a cheerleader."

Hailee Schwab

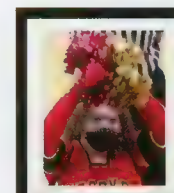
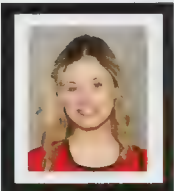


"I am gonna miss the summer camps, and the tryout clinics the most."

Ricoyah Price

"The basketball games, for sure. I grew up with most of the basketball players, and getting to cheer for them is fun, and people looking forward to me in the air or tumbling is the best 'feeling ever!'"

Farrah Kraklow



"The girls. Throughout the four years of high school, you build a bond with about 7 different teams, and each time you have to say goodbye is even harder than the last because the bonds are already really strong."

Mallory Day

"I am going to miss the intense games, and the hyped student section."

Ma'Kayla Steele



REBUILD



"The Boys Basketball Cheer Team is rebuilding after the pandemic by keeping up the energy at games, and constantly supporting our basketball team."

Ma'Kayla Steele, 12

RIHS Competition Cheer Team 2021

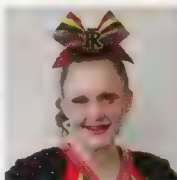
"I love performing at the competitions, and the adrenaline rush right before we get on the mat. It's a lot of fun between the bonds we make, the bus rides, seeing other schools' routines, and all the teams supporting each other. It's all around a good experience."

Kaiya McKinley, 11



"I enjoy watching all of the hard work we put into the routine pay off at the competition when we do our best."

Brenna Anderson, 10



"The competitions themselves. After all the hard work we put in, when we finally go out to perform and put our hearts into it. Also, the bonding we get while getting ready moments before we go out. When it all comes together, it's really fun."

Delaney Carroll, 10



"I love the adrenaline of getting to perform our hearts out in front of a crowd. No matter how it goes, there's always a smile on our faces because we're genuinely happy to be there."

Jade Gasper, 10

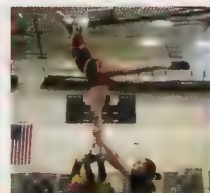
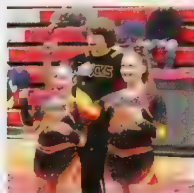


"Making the friendships, and being on a team where we can grow off of each other."

Cienna Reed, 10



Seniors Mallory and Ma'Kayla have been a part of the RIHS Competitive Cheer Team since the team was formed.



REBUILD



"Now that we are able to stunt, which is a big thing that has changed, as well as us being in person for the competitions, I feel like we also have more energy and excitement for the competitions."

Eva Essman, 10

SPECIAL OLYMPICS

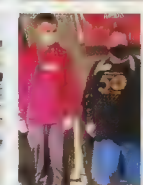
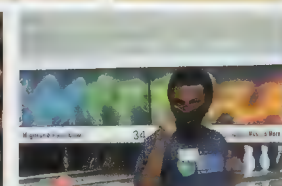
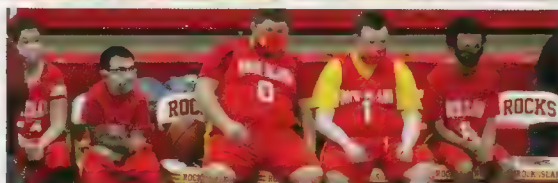
As the Rocks wrap up the 2022 season of the Special Olympics, they look back, and reflect on how they have worked hard and improved tremendously. The four seniors, Drew DeMarlie, Colin Benisch, Anthony Cimarrusti, and Ryan Holtan have been incredible leaders. Not only have these upperclassmen stepped up, they have been role models for the underclassmen,

Linda Rose, Karsen Horton, Fred Venable, Drake Lowry, Frank Holmes, and Austin Huff. These underclassmen have improved so much, too. Mrs. Lisa Martens, a coach for the team, states, "Each year, we strive for each player to improve their personal basketball skills, and in the end, it benefits our entire team. AND, WE ALWAYS HAVE FUN!" Along

the way, the team has struggled with COVID, as they have had to cancel two games, and miss practice because of it. The team has made many fun memories, such as playing UT at halftime of the Varsity game, and having the student section cheer them on. One of the key factors that the team focuses on is "good sportsmanship" explains Martens.

Another key factor that has helped this team is defense. Martens says, "We have players playing GREAT defense, and new players bringing the ball up court!"

Unfortunately, the team was not able to make it to the state tournament due to COVID, but they hope to make that their goal for next year. With the season coming to an end, the team has learned so much, and has been able to have fun on and off the court.



REBUILD



"I was practicing outside at my house and my friend's house."
- Drew DeMarlie, on getting ready for the basketball season after COVID



REGROUP



Rocky students and staff have been working to REgroup and REimagine our extra curriculars after a year in a pandemic. As we RETurn to school, more and more opportunities arise to REwrite the purpose of these groups, and the traditions the groups carry on each year. Our clubs and organizations hold a special place, not only in our school day, but also in how we think about what it means to be a Rocky student.

After being at home for the past year and a half, it's important to REbuild our clubs. We are REady to take on the RESponsibility of advertising with the goal of REcruiting members, REfining our goals, RENewing old traditions, and creating traditions of our own. Now is our time to REdefine our legacy.



LEARN

from the best

Rocky's Journalism Class had the opportunity to learn about photography from Meg McLaughlin, a highly regarded photographer from the *Rock Island Argus*. Meg frequently covers Rocky events for the paper.



"It's a different experience to have to learn a whole concept of writing. Having to learn a whole new system definitely was challenging, but being in Journalism has been the best decision I have made, as I have made better connections with people in the classroom."
Kennedy Roggenbauer



"Being in Journalism is an opportunity to try and touch bases on students' lives outside of school, while learning a different style to write in."
Mallory Day



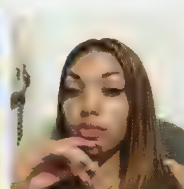
"It is very exciting, but also really overwhelming, because there is a lot to take in at once, but it will be super nice when it is all going to pay off for the finished yearbook."
Ella Munday



"It's interesting to see the yearbook come alive, and being a part of the process, but there is a lot to learn, and so much to get done."
Bailey Proffitt



"I like to be a part of the yearbook staff because, not only do I get to have a say in what hundreds of students will be reading, but I also get to learn more about my classmates."
Kenzie Crimmins

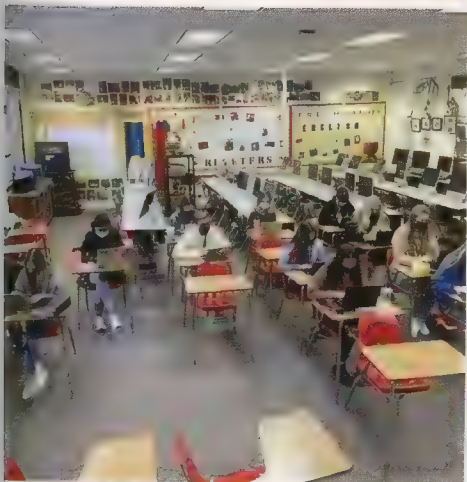


"It's a new and fun challenge, for sure. It steps me out of my comfort zone, talking to a lot of different people and getting to hear their stories and opinions. I think building the yearbook is pretty easy because I have some experience."
Makalia Crawford



"Being in Journalism has taught me how to take pictures and learn what all goes into putting together a yearbook. I like being able to see all of the progress we make as a class, and seeing it come together."
Kaiya McKinley

JOURNALISM




Journalism is a great opportunity to meet new people and attend amazing events. It's also an awesome way to get access to working as a team to build the yearbook from the ground up. Ms. Miers, the Journalism teacher since 2009 here at Rocky, stated that, "Journalism is so unique, and a great opportunity for students because the class allows students to tell the history of the school each year."

Students, every year, "Work on the yearbook and online newspaper," said Miers. However, Miers stated this year compared to others is unique due to "a much smaller group than usual," making pages a little more work for each student, but there is no challenge the Journalism class cannot conquer.

Miers explained that the class is "completely student focused and driven, and it's awesome to see students take on leadership roles within the class."

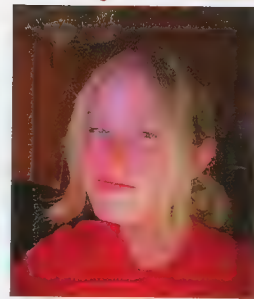
REGROUP



"It's great to be able to regroup and be back in class with everyone, and to capture all the excitement and reactions in the yearbook. I look forward to seeing what this year brings for Journalism. :)"

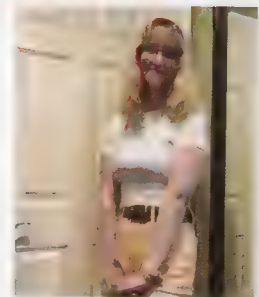
- Aidan Henderson

Year 2 Journalists



KARA BAUMUNK

PHOEBE FULLER

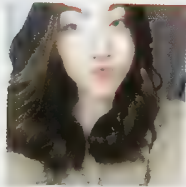


MADISON CHASTAIN

CAMPBELL KELLEY



Living Like A RIVETER



"Being a part of the Riveters, to me, means making a difference for the community, and learning what it means to be an amazing leader."

Presley Behrens



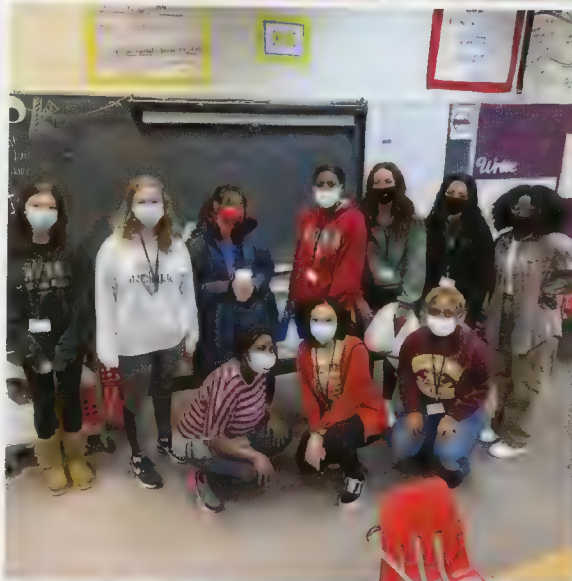
"Female Empowerment is something I have been passionate about for what seems like forever. Coming to Rocky, and finding a club where my thoughts/ideas of women all over the world can be discussed and embraced was an outlet that I never took for granted. I really valued the conversations and the process of being exposed to new ideas."

Favour Noya



"Being a part of the Riveters means being a role model and a friend to young women in this school, and in our community. Being a Riveter is a constant reminder of the power women hold when we all stand together."

Eliza Aleman





REGROUP

"Getting consistent meeting dates and members has been difficult. Like all groups, we are struggling to get students engaged. I'm hopeful that we will continue to build."

- Ms. Miers

BUILDING back STRONGER

The Rocky Riveters work to build their membership back after a COVID year.



ROCKY RIVETERS make Christmas ornaments using bulbs, sprinkles, garland, and paint pens.

Community service has continued to be a strong objective for the Rocky Riveters, ever since the group was started.

This year, the Rocky Riveters created "Period Packs" for Rock Island's junior high schools. The Riveters packed bags with feminine hygiene products, and placed a positive message on each bag. The Riveters look forward to continuing to serve the RI community.



RIVETERS REGROUP

AFTER A REMOTE, AND WORK TO REBUILD THEIR MEMBERS.

This year, the Rocky Riveters have been working hard to make the world a better place- in the school, and in the community. Co-Advisor Ms. Sarah Miers said, "So far, we have created period packs for the junior highs, made our own Christmas ornaments, watched a documentary, and had a few meetings to discuss issues that are important to the Riveters." They have also shopped for Giving Tree children, and continued on to wrap the gifts.

While the group is still getting back on its feet after a remote year, the students and advisors are happy to be back. Ms. Miers stated, "It's great to be back! We have smaller numbers this year, but that's to be expected after returning from online learning. Our students are very involved, so I know they have to share their time with other groups and jobs. We'd like to be more involved in the community again. It's just been hard with COVID and the precautions we need to take." Co-Advisor Amanda Randolph attested to this, saying, "It is a year of rebuilding for the Riveters, and many other clubs and sports. COVID destroyed the momentum that we had worked several years to create, so it very much feels like we are starting over. However, we will persist and help the club return to our glory days!" Despite the hardships, they're doing what they can to support the community.

The students aren't the only ones glad to be back! "I always love working with these young women and Ms. Miers. I am grateful that we have been able to stay in-person after remote learning last year," Mrs. Randolph said. The group is always looking for new members, as well. Randolph said, "We will celebrate our five year anniversary of when we established the Riveters on March 28, and I want the club to become bigger than ever before in 2022."

REGROUP



"We are having days where we get to know each other, and get vulnerable with peers. We don't have sectionals."
- Favour Noya



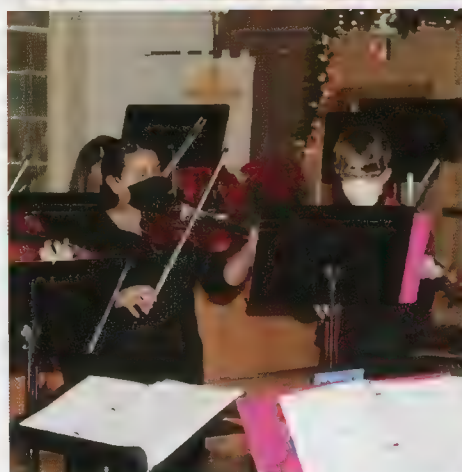
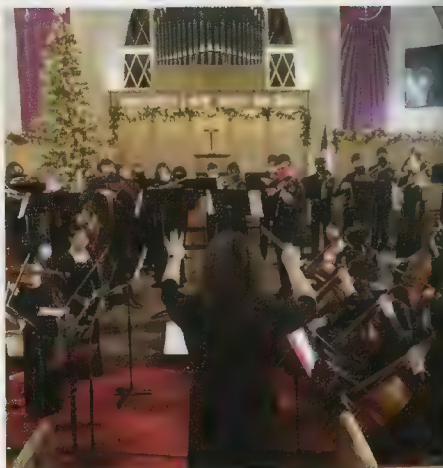
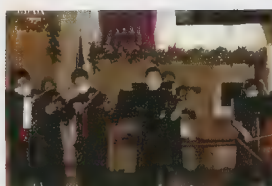
"It's like being a regular orchestra student, but the music is slightly harder."
Ryleigh Terry



"It shows I'm good at playing my viola, and it's fun."
Alice McConchie



"It's more challenging than junior high, and there's a lot of kids in there that are older than me."
Owen Dietz



RIHS Orchestras 2021-22

The Concert Orchestra (top) practices before their Winter Concert, while the Chamber Orchestra (bottom) relaxes before their Winter Concert. Both groups performed the annual holiday concert at a church, rather than the high school, due to issues with the auditorium.



Riley's
RANDOM RAMBLINGS

The Orchestra loves listening to the random utterances from Riley Jones. Here's a few of the favorites:
- "I can feel my brain shaking around."
- "Don't sneak up on me while I'm playing. That's how you get a cello thrown at you."
- "I thought I had a good break, but it wasn't good enough for you to mention."

Getting Back on Beat

Both Concert and Chamber Orchestra, led by Mrs. Benson, are back in a big way after a pandemic year. "My main goal this year is to help my students to play with more confidence this year," stated Benson.

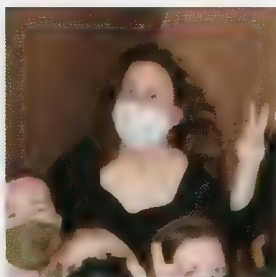
Although the orchestras both have been strong, Benson stated that, "The whole freshman class has been a huge and wonderful addition to the orchestra- they have added lots of strength and positivity to the RIHS Orchestra program."

Although the orchestras faced many setbacks during the pandemic, the orchestras have come back better than ever. Benson explained that, "Right now, I think the biggest accomplishment is being present, and making music together after such an awful year. Resilience is the word that comes to mind." She went on to state that she was, "SO thankful to be back in person. We all need each other- teachers and students alike- to encourage and build up one another."

She said that it's really inspiring to be conducting and rebuilding two separate orchestras. She explained that, "The students have really stepped up, and worked so hard the first quarter to make beautiful music again."



Sage Oviatt is the student teacher for the Concert Orchestra class. This her first year ever teaching. She hopes to be able to help build up the orchestra. She knew if she wanted to teach, it would be for orchestra, and she would want to student teach under one of her favorite, and most impactful teachers in her life.



Mrs. Benson has been teaching Orchestra for 11 years, and is finishing her seventh year at Rocky. She plans to continue to move both orchestras into more difficult music. She originally didn't want to teach high school students, but she explains, "God called me to Rocky- I swore I would never teach high school because I was afraid of high school students. Thankfully, God changed my heart, and I love teaching high school now."

Phoebe Fuller, Viola
Length of Time Playing: 8 years
Favorite Song: "St Paul's Suite"
Favorite Memories: "Going to concerts and playing to see all the hard work pay off"
Plans after HS: "I would love to keep playing."



Elizabeth Hamilton, Violin
Length of Time Playing: 7 years
Favorite Song: "Greatest Showman"
Favorite Memories: Car washes
Plans after HS: "Take up art commissions, and Youtubeing, maybe music"



Favour Noya, Cello
Length of Time Playing: 7 years
Favorite Song: "Greatest Showman"
Favorite Memories: Posing for pictures
Plans after HS: "Major in public health and go to PA"



Brian Reed, Cello
Length of Time Playing: 7 years
Favorite Song: "Iowa Spring"
Favorite Memories: Day after concerts class parties
Plans after HS: "Go to the military"



Eh Htoo, Violin
Length of Time Playing: 7 years
Favorite Song: "New World Symphony"
Favorite Memories: "In 8th grade, I got to play with the advanced HS group."
Plans after HS: "Playing for family and friends, while attending college for psychology"



Ava Coussens, Viola
Length of Time Playing: 7 years
Favorite Song: "Imagine Dragons"
Favorite Memories: "Going on the NY Trip"
Plans after HS: College



Savannah Harding, Bass
Length of Time Playing: 7 years
Favorite Song: "The Final Countdown" and "Pink Panther"
Favorite Memories: ILMEA
Plans after HS: "Special Education and playing on an orchestra scholarship"

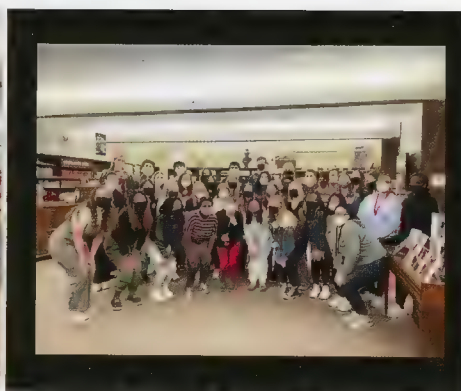


Sage Oviatt, Viola
Length of Time Playing: 9-10 years
Favorite Song: "Aladdin"
Favorite Memories: SIESTA & Riley's Random Ramblings
Plans after HS: "Major in Pre-med & Children's Ministry & minor in worship ministry"



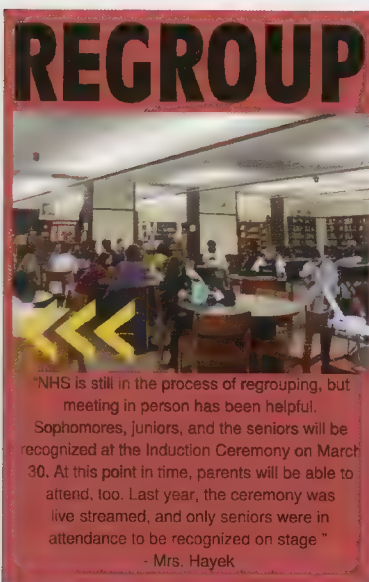
Logan Lambrecht, Cello
Length of Time Playing: 6 years
Favorite Song: "C Major Scale"
Favorite Memories: Messing around with Ben and Kasen





NHS OFFICERS

Elected by their fellow members, the National Honor Society Board had to find a way to navigate new circumstances this year. The Board consists of the President, Vice President, and Secretary. Their tasks are to run the National Honor Society Sophomore, Junior, and Senior meetings, and lead the annual Induction Ceremony, taking place on March 30, 2022.



REGROUP

"NHS is still in the process of regrouping, but meeting in person has been helpful. Sophomores, juniors, and the seniors will be recognized at the Induction Ceremony on March 30. At this point in time, parents will be able to attend, too. Last year, the ceremony was live streamed, and only seniors were in attendance to be recognized on stage."

- Mrs. Hayek

National Honor Society

Every year, the National Honor Society at Rocky works to achieve the same traditions and goals. Mrs. Hayek, the club advisor, explains, "NHS encourages students to embody and uphold, through their experiences and comportment, the values of scholarship, leadership, character, and service in high school and their community."

This year's NHS officers include President Georgi Feigley, Vice President Joe Brune, and Secretary Favour Noya. Mrs. Greenwood and Ms. Churchill also help advise the group.

During the course of the year, students have the opportunity to volunteer at various service projects to help the QC community. Popular projects include the Festival of Trees, Eagle Days, local churches, shelters, Closet2Closet, and many more.

The highlight of the year for NHS is always the Induction Ceremony, which occurs every spring. Mrs. Hayek notes that the program is "a great memory of student accomplishments and recognition of their achievement."

No matter what grade NHS members are in, Mrs. Hayek and the NHS advisers hope all NHS members "become well rounded citizens, caring as much about their community and others as they do their academic work."

members of the community

NHS members represent themselves not only as scholars but as helpful and caring members of their community. "Service is important in the community. Helping others, just focusing on ourselves or academics, is a key pillar of NHS. Empathy for others, having a caring spirit, and being an active part of a community where we reside and work is inherent in being human," explained Mrs. Hayek.

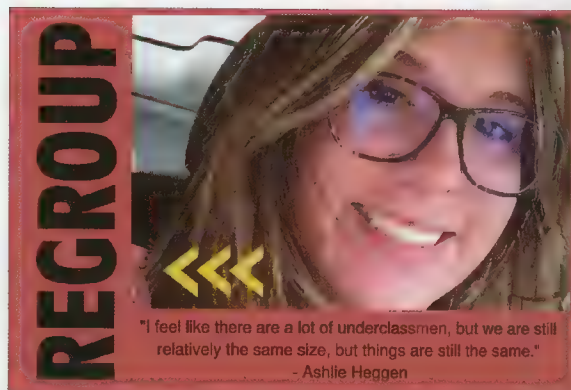


Sophomore, junior, and senior members of the National Honor Society helped the community in various ways this year. This includes volunteering as mentors in the Penguin Project performances of The Little Mermaid Jr. As mentors, they needed to help peers with various special needs and disabilities. NHS members also contributed to the Holiday Secret Santa at the high school during the holiday season by wrapping and boxing presents for families in need.



DINO-MITE READS

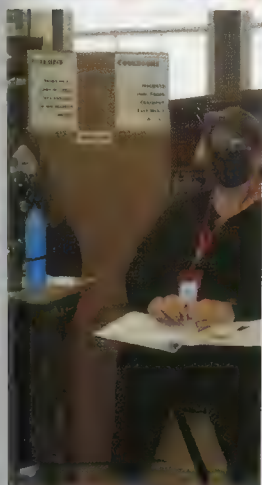
The book club, known as the Reading Rocks, selects and reads books off of the Lincoln Award nominees list. Students compete to read all twenty books before March. After every book they read, the students put a dinosaur sticker next to their completed book on the library bulletin board. This helps keep track of the books read, and those that were the most popular.



"I feel like there are a lot of underclassmen, but we are still relatively the same size, but things are still the same."

- Ashlie Heggen

READING ROCKS



MORE THAN BOOKS

Reading Rocks is Rock Island High School's book club. Although the Reading Rocks does many fun activities, advisor Mrs. Mary Mendelin states, "So far, my favorite memory from the year is our first meeting. We had so many new people sign up and show up! The excitement was awesome!" Student Mark Jackson states that his favorite part of the group is "viewing others' perspectives on the characters."

Mendelin explains that what makes the Reading Rocks stand out from other book clubs is that, "We have students from all different grades, and people with many different interests. When we have discussions about books, we have so many points of view represented." The diverse membership helps expose the Rocks to new reads, too. Jackson states that he is "in Reading Rocks for perspective and book recommendations." Mendelin echoes this sentiment, stating that she enjoys "seeing everyone interact and meet new people that they might not meet if it wasn't for book club."

The group has provided its members with lasting friendships and memories, even during the pandemic meetings. Jackson states he will "miss having laughs with some of the people there." Mendelin explains she "will miss our seniors when they graduate at the end of this year!"

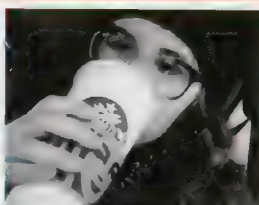
words, words, words... [The Reading Rocks explain their favorite literary quotes.]



"Some infinities are bigger than other infinities."
- The Fault In Our Stars
Zenniphyr Bullock



"You're just as sane as I am."
- Harry Potter and the Half Blood Prince
Georgi Feigley



"Reyna looked at Percy without much hope. 'You do have a plan?' Percy wanted to step forward bravely and say, 'No, I don't!'"
- Son of Neptune
Sage Oviatt



"People are stupid."
- Wizards First Rule
Mark Jackson



"You try, you fail. You try, you fail. But you never fail until you stop trying."
- Salt to the Sea
Alex Jackson



Rocky's Welding Program is unique in the courses at the high school, as it is real world work at all times. Students learn the skills to be welders, and practice those skills each day, as well as the safety procedures to keep themselves and their classmates safe in the classroom.

Each student works at their own station. They must wear protective gear, while they work on their projects. During the year, the Rocky welders have the opportunity to learn skills to graduate with a certificate that will allow them to enter the workforce immediately after high school.



ROCKS WELD

their success


Over the last few years, Rocky's Welding Program has grown in popularity. Students jump at the chance to get career training in high school, and the welding program is just the program to help them. Mr. Weber explains the goals of the program, stating, "The main goal, as a class, is to make sure the students know and master the skill of welding, and all of the tools and equipment used in a manufacturing or field setting. The other goal that I think is just as important (as told to us by companies), is to teach and master the soft skills needed to be successful in a career in the trades or manufacturing."

The group does quite a bit outside of the classroom, as well. Weber states, "We have a fundraiser with the Rock Island Grand Prix (RIGP), where we help with the set-up and tear down for the event. While we are doing this, we are fixing and repairing the metal barrels they use on the track. The field trip is also tied into a lesson on working in the field. We have a field trip we take to local businesses. We visit John Deere Harvester, Crawford Company, Plumbers and Pipe Fitters Union Local 25, and Sheetmetal Workers Union Local 91. This is all done in 1 day. The purpose of the trip is for students to see and learn what types of jobs are available to them in the industry with different kinds of companies. We also go on a field trip to SSAB, the steel company in Muscatine for Manufacturing Day. Just like in our earlier field trip, we see and learn what it takes to be successful in the manufacturing and trades careers. We work on projects, where we build things and repair things to learn how to design, plan and build, and solve problems when repairing items. We have multiple guest speakers from trade schools and businesses come in to talk to the students, and recruit our students."

Whether the students are in class or working in the community, the students are ready to prepare themselves for life outside of Rocky by learning "how to be a skilled welder and knowledgeable, as it relates to working in the trades or manufacturing, how to work with others in a shop setting to complete projects (while being efficient and productive), to learn soft skill needed to be successful in the welding and trades industry, and to learn what and how to use as many of the tools and pieces of equipment that they will see out in the industry," explains Weber.



REGROUP



"It's been quite challenging, as this is a 'hands-on' class. We had to be creative, and think of new ways to accomplish our goals by prioritizing what are the must haves for those graduating with a desire to be a welder."

- Mr. Weber

LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

"I'm a part of the Student Hunger Drive. We've collected donations to give to River Bend Food Bank. Food shouldn't be a privilege, but a right. All human beings deserve to go to bed with a full stomach, and the SHD works towards that goal."

Zaw Win, 12



"As presidents, Drew and I help out with every activity and event in Student Council. It's a lot of fun to be able to help and guide others, and help out Mrs. Mertel and Mrs. Young, as well as all those in StuCo to make good ideas come to life."

Phoebe Fuller, 12



"I am on the Student Hunger Drive council. I helped collect cans at various events, and also went to elementary schools on loading day. In total, we ended up collecting 22,815 pounds of food, and provided 30,061 meals to families."

Kaiya McKinley, 11



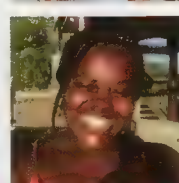
"I'm a Hunger Drive and Dance Marathon leader, and I plan all the events and volunteer to help out during the events. I set everything up, as well."

Camryn Milechik, 11



"I'm on the Dance Marathon Leadership council. I get to promote DM throughout the school year, but we also help come up with incentives to increase student participation. It's so awesome going crazy, and having fun for a meaningful impact in the community."

Favour Noya, 12



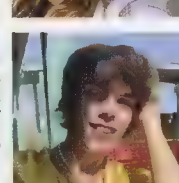
"It's very fun and interesting. I feel like being on the leadership board, I'm looked at as a leader to lead people the right way. Not just being in charge of things, just being a leader, in general. I really like getting things organized, and being involved."

Mariyah McQueen, 11



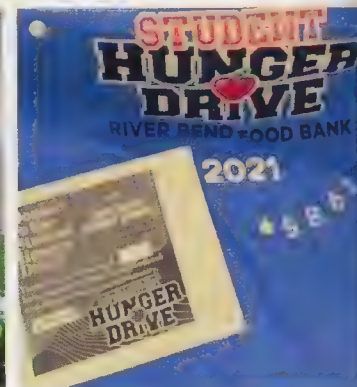
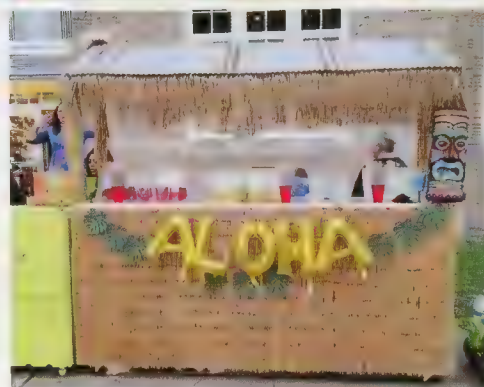
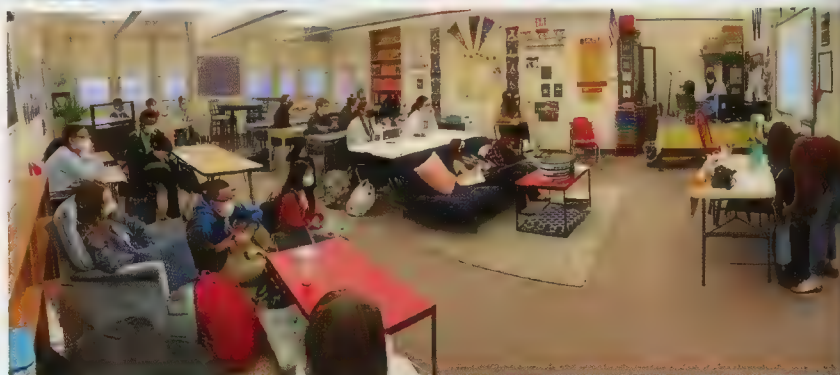
"I am the President with Phoebe, and we oversee all of the major projects that Student Council is a part of, such as Hunger Drive, Homecoming, Dance Marathon."

Drew Jarding, 12



"It is very fun. We get to share our fun and creative ideas that would make the school a better place. You are leading others, and viewed as a leader in the school."

Denise Carr, 11



STUDENT COUNCIL

Rock Island High School's Student Council meets every Thursday morning to plan various events, such as the Blood Drive, the Hunger Drive, Homecoming, Dance Marathon, and more! StuCo helps students get involved, and have their voices heard.

All events are customized by the students themselves, with the help of advisors, Kelly Young and Katie Mertel. It involves volunteering, creativity, and a lot of hard work that becomes visualized in each event. Being in Student Council helps students build leadership skills and long-lasting relationships. Student Council is glad to be back and working harder than ever to make RIHS a place for students to be heard and have fun!



StuCo works with Impact Life to get students signed up for the **Blood Drive**. The students check students in and out, direct them where to go, and make sure everything runs smoothly, so that the nurses of Impact Life can do their job.



During the **Hunger Drive**, StuCo creates fun incentives to get students to donate non-perishables. They package up the food and attend assemblies held by the River Bend Food Bank.



When it comes to **Homecoming**, StuCo does it all- they create and sell shirts and tickets, create decorations, reach out for donations, set up the dance, and tear it down!



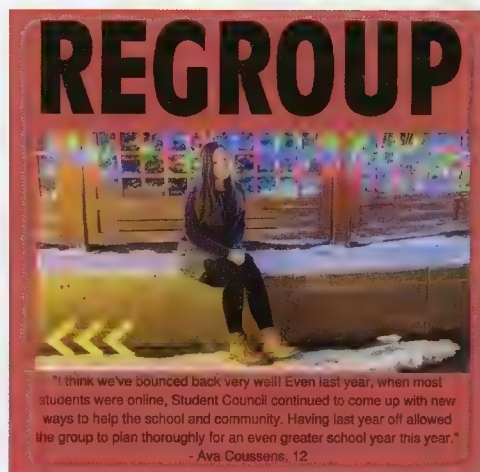
Dance Marathon is an exciting event for StuCo, where they raise money for the Children's Miracle Network for one month before the dance. They set up the dance, design and sell shirts and tickets, and provide activities to do at the dance.

STUCO DOES MORE THAN YOU KNOW



BEING A **FRESHMAN** IN STUDENT COUNCIL

"I chose to do Student Council because I love helping, volunteering, and being a leader. I like having a say in what goes on at Rocky. Schools need student perspectives on some of the decisions. Being a freshman in Student Council is everything to me. Now that I've been in StuCo, I have friends that look out for me."
- Morris Nunn



"I think we've bounced back very well! Even last year, when most students were online, Student Council continued to come up with new ways to help the school and community. Having last year off allowed the group to plan thoroughly for an even greater school year this year."
- Ava Coussens, 12

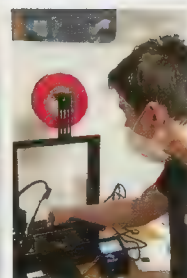
(NOT SO) ROCKY ROBOTICS

The Robotics Team returns for a rebuilding year, with a strong group of underclassmen.

While Rocky's Robotics Team is still fairly new to the school, the team is making up for their lost time with lots of talent. Coach Katie Dennis stated, "This year's team needed some programmers, and thankfully, we had a couple freshmen step up. Trace Downing and Jaxon Womack added a lot to our team with their programming knowledge."

The challenge the team faced this year was creating a robot that could "not only drive around, but also pick up objects. Creating an arm to pick up objects proved to be quite a challenge for us," Dennis explained.

While the team is rebuilding, they still have had a lot of success. Dennis explained, "We participate in the First Tech Challenge, and compete with other robotics teams across the state. This year, our greatest achievement was programming the robot so easily. We have always struggled with that, so getting that done without much trouble was a win!"



**COLLABORATE
CREATE**



"I got involved with robotics because I have always had a love for engineering and building things. I started watching YouTube about the topic during summer time, and when school came around, I signed up for the Robotics Club. My favorite part of being on the team would be working with others who have the same interest and strive as me. I hope to have more members in the future. It would make the experience a whole lot better, and we can perform at a higher level. Since we average around 2 members per practice, even having a working robot that is able to compete is a feat on its own. As a group, we have become a lot closer knitted, and have become really close friends. The best thing to take from this year is gained companionship."

- Jaxon Womack, 9th Grade

REGROUP



"This has been a bit difficult. We keep calling this year a building year. We are building toward a better, stronger team next year."

- Mrs. Dennis

Why French Club?



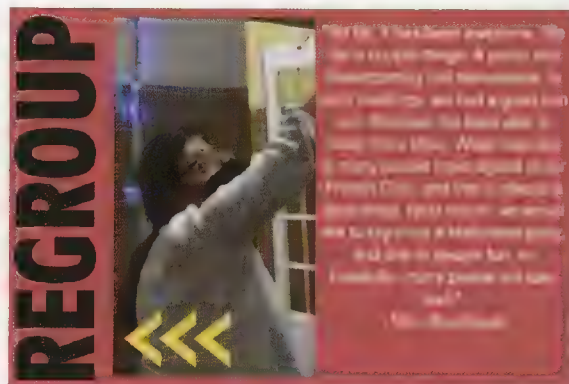
Ywa Htoo, 9
"I joined because we
get to do fun things.
Also, to make new
friends."



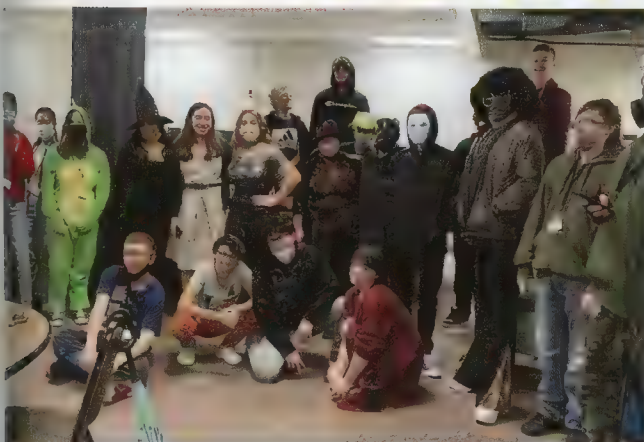
Poe Soo Paw, 9
"The reason why I joined is to meet new people and have fun."



Joslynn Henderson,
9
"It seemed like a lot
of fun! And, it was
only \$5."



French CLUB

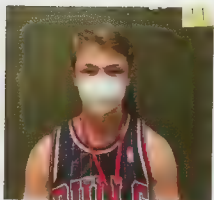


From being completely at home to transitioning straight into in-school learning, French Club has brought everything they could back, while still being cautious and aware of COVID-19, all the while bringing extensive fun to each gathering.



French Club decorates the hallways during Homecoming Week, with their intricate French touch.





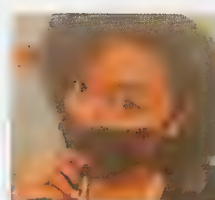
"Proud, and also weirded out by how low my voice got."
- Joe Brune



"They would be so happy and grateful at the amazing progress they would make."
- Georgi Feigley



"Very excited and proud. I've wanted to be in Chamber ever since jr. high."
- Layla Eggabroad



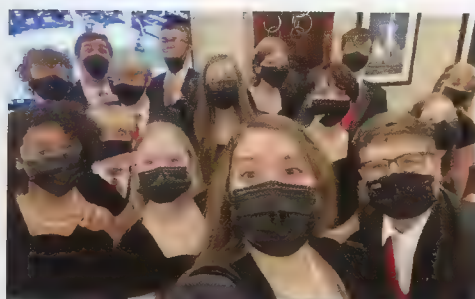
"My younger self would feel accomplished, and feel like she's grown as a singer and person."
- Charlotte Boyer



"Seeing myself in Chamber would make him ecstatic, but also scared, wondering what happened to me up until then."
- Nathan Krug



"Younger me would be over the moon for me! I've always wanted to be in Chamber, and I'm so proud to be in Chamber for my senior year."
- Kara Baumunk





"I think she'd be very excited, and in shock, kind of like how I am now. I've always liked singing and performing, so this is like a dream come true!"

- Addison VandeWalle

If Only You Could See Me

Rocky's Chamber Singers reflect on what their younger selves would think of them now, as members of Rocky's Chamber Choir.



"We are in full swing this year! It has been challenging for all of us, but very rewarding!"

- Georgi Feigley

BIGGER & BETTER

Returning to in person learning was not hard for the Chamber Singers this year. Their schedule and activities are going back to "normal," and the Chamber Singers have regrouped, with Director Scott Voigt planning many activities for them throughout the school year. This year is definitely one of the Chamber Singers' best years, even though COVID19 is still causing some frustration and changes to plans.

The first task for the Chamber Singers is the audition process to see who will be in Rocky's top choir. Auditions can be tough, but that's what Voigt loves about teaching the Chamber Singers. He states that he enjoys, "Spending time with such a dedicated, talented group of kids, who are passionate about making music together, and are willing to be challenged to achieve their full potential." If he had to explain this year's Chamber Singers in one word, it would be, "Resilient," he explains. This year's class has regrouped with new and old Chamber Singers. Usually, Chamber Singers have 4 students for each voice group: Sopranos, Tenor, Alto, Bass. "This year's group has 18 singers," Voigt said. This is quite the full group. For Voigt, having full classes is wonderful. "It feels great to see and hear students singing together again, enjoying each other, and making memories," he states.

The Singers are also excited to return to a schedule much like their pre-COVID days. "We were able to have our ILMEA festivals again (We have 8 singers going to All-State - a record for RIHS!), as well as our 'holiday tour' (20 performances in the community in December. We are planning to return to a full Pops Concert this spring, and perform at the IHSA large-group contest," Voigt explained.

In all choirs, and especially Chamber, Voigt hopes to instill a passion for singing and music in his students. "I grew up in a very musical family, in which everyone sang and/or played an instrument," Voigt said. "In high school, I had the opportunity to participate in All-State Chorus and Honors Chorus several times. These experiences showed me what it was like to perform choral music at the highest level. I wanted to give students the same opportunity to experience what music can really be like."

This year is Voigt's 15th at Rocky, and his experience has helped them bounce back from their time in a pandemic. Every year, there are 4 concerts, one at the end of every quarter, and for Voigt, he has a favorite. "Definitely the Winter Concert. Most students seem to really enjoy performing holiday music, and audiences are typically very appreciative of our performances during this season," Voigt said. "Some students perform special solos in between the choirs, and all of the choirs combine for a finale at the end of the concert," he explained.

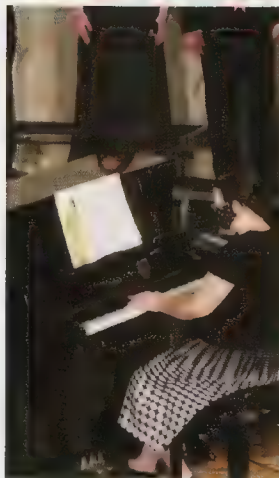
REGROUP



"It has been a little difficult trying to get the hang of things, and regroup."
- Oliana Richey



"Several factors go into choosing music: size, and make up of the group, ability/ experience level of the group, and theme/ focus of the performance, appropriateness for school, and whether I would enjoy singing it myself. I keep files of all the songs we sing, so then, we do not repeat them too often. I look through songs we have done, and some that we have not performed yet, and make a list of songs to consider for each group, and then eliminate songs until I reach a set list that I am happy with for each group for the performance."
- Mr. Voigt, on picking music for the choirs



Rocky has long been known for their popular and talented music programs, and Rocky's Choir continues to hold that reputation. Mr. Voigt, Rocky's Choir director, explained that, "Concert Choir is 9th graders and students in their first year of choir. Symphonic Choir is grades 10-12 with previous experience." Mr. Voigt shared that, "The Symphonic Choir joins with Chamber Singers for IHSA contests in the spring."

The Concert and Symphonic Choirs are bouncing back after a remote year, but have encountered some challenges still due to the pandemic. "This year has been challenging due to many kids missing large periods of time due to being quarantined," Voigt explained.

Throughout the school year, Voigt hopes students learned that, "Achieving your goals requires hard work, being part of a group requires commitment from each individual, each person's voice makes a difference, and how to embrace things that make you nervous and break out of your comfort zone."

back in the groove



"It feels pretty good. I get to be with my friends again, and my teachers, including my old teachers, and to be in person."

-Tashia Harrison



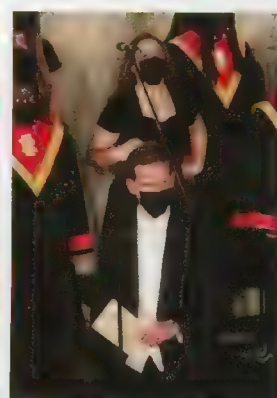
"It feels so good to be back in school after being out for a whole year. It was a real struggle when we were online."

- Kelsey Ramirez

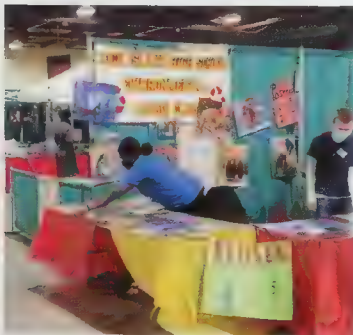


"It feels great because the environment is more like a family, instead of strangers on a screen."

- Sentia Nishimwe



Students Take a Stand for the Environment



The Environmental Action Club is making the world a better place for everyone to live in, and especially those at Rocky. Advisor of the club, Mr. Dunker explained the purpose of the club, stating, "To promote Pro-Environmental Action, continually provide opportunities for helping the environment in our local community, be resources for peers at RIHS and the community about environmental issues." Students in the group also "learn to tolerate dirt, become leaders, and help the local environment," Dunker explained.

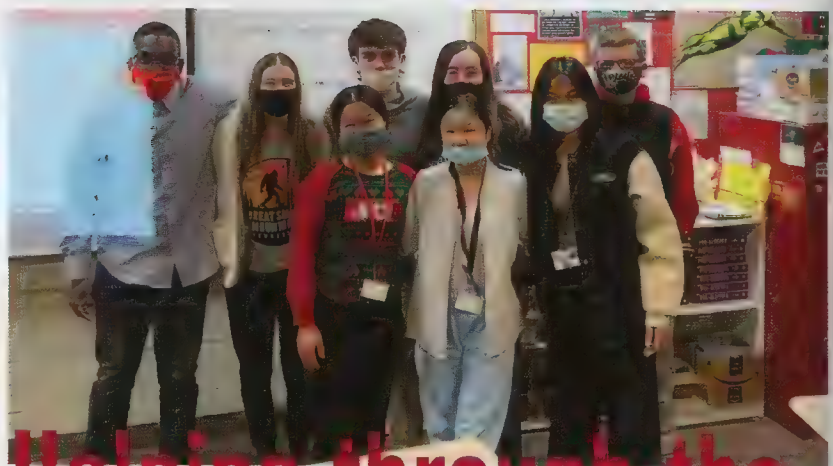
This club isn't only about helping take care of the environment, but to engage with other people who care about it as much as the members do. Some of the activities the club participated in include wrapping 10,000 tree roots to be planted for Living Lands and Waters, and "the long weekends at the Expo Center (Bald Eagle Days and Outdoor Show)," Dunker stated. A typical meeting consists of reviewing upcoming events and discussing current environmental news. The EAC is always looking for more active members to continue their help keeping the QC clean!



"EAC is a way to make a change in any way we can as students at Rocky. This club is the embodiment of my beliefs towards the world, and the fact that we have to take care of the Earth before it's too late."
- Drew Jarding



"I love being a part of EAC! I feel the group represents our love for the planet. It means a lot to me, knowing that I'm doing what I can to take care of the Earth. I enjoy supporting this cause in any way I can, and EAC allows me to do that."
- Ava Coussens



Helping through the EAC

Students who are passionate about helping the environment find a place in Rocky's Environmental Action Club.



"Regrouping is still ongoing. We have changed our meeting frequency and time, and lost one of our sponsors. Our weekly activity has changed, we've had so many adjustments, and I expect still more before the club settles back into a routine."
- Mr. Dunker

**The African American Heritage Club
bounces back after a COVID year.**

LEARNING AND LEADING AT RIHS

After spending a year in remote learning, the students in the African American Heritage Club have come back to school ready to be involved and take action in the community. From the start of the year, the club has been very active with guest speakers and projects. Dr. Grandberry-Pugh and Mrs. Williams co-advise the group, and are proud of the group's progress this year.

Dr. Grandberry-Pugh explained, "The purpose of the African American Heritage Club is to give students an opportunity to explore, study, and learn about African American culture and history, the positive aspects of the culture and history." This year's club leaders include, Nyambanguka Benise, Najah Vesey, Kezimana Karine, Ntiebuwayo Leya, and Ma'Kayla Steele. "All of them have brought positive energy to the group with their great ideas, eagerness to work, and love of the African American and African people and cultures they all represent," Grandberry-Pugh explained.

The group has brought in many speakers to learn more about the community's cultures, as well as African American professionals in the community. The group has learned more about college and career opportunities, and co-hosted the Student Leadership Summit this year with Student Council.

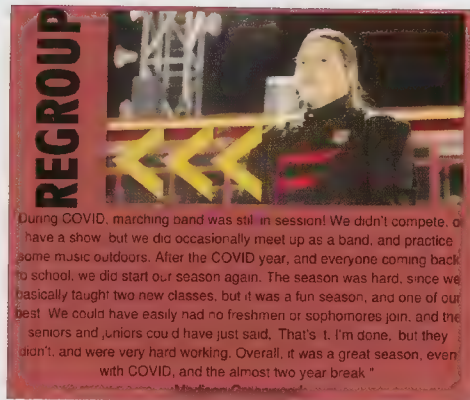
Through all of this work, Dr. Grandberry-Pugh stated, "I hope that the students develop a better understanding of the positive aspects of African American history and how African Americans have helped develop and shape America."



REGROUP



"During the pandemic, we never really made time for the group. After witnessing everything that our community went through these last few years, we have come back with a new mind and passion for the club."
- Nyambanguka Benise



During COVID, marching band was still in session! We didn't compete, or have a show, but we did occasionally meet up as a band, and practice some music outdoors. After the COVID year, and everyone coming back to school, we did start our season again. The season was hard, since we basically taught two new classes, but it was a fun season, and one of our best. We could have easily had no freshmen or sophomores join, and the seniors and juniors could have just said, 'That's it, I'm done, but they didn't, and were very hard working. Overall, it was a great season, even with COVID, and the almost two year break.'

BACK & BETTER THAN EVER

After a year without marching band, the Pride of Rock Island came back better than ever. This year's show, "Rock's Toy Shop" was "a day in the life of toy maker, Rock, in his shop," explained band director, Mr. Carlin. The band was excited to be back on the field and competing. Carlin stated, "The goal for this season was simply to put the best show on the field we could achieve, and work to build the program back to before the 2020-2021 school year. Yes, the band achieved this goal."

The band had to adapt quite a bit this year, as they understood circumstances could change quickly due to COVID. The band was led by many student leaders, and especially the junior and senior classes. Carlin is also proud of the underclassmen, stating, "The freshmen and sophomore classes were the ones who really impacted the season. They jumped in with both feet, and bought into what we were doing. They were new to this activity, and had a great drive to do their best."

The band did well in many competitions, including earning the title of Grand Champions at WIU, where they also won 1st place in Class 4A and Best Color Guard. However, Carlin's favorite memory from the season was "seeing the band grow with quiet confidence throughout the last month of the season, knowing that their show was becoming one that people were excited to watch."

being in the Pride of Rock Island

"Being a member of the Pride of Rock Island means a lot to me. I appreciate the opportunity we are given to perform at football games and competitions for an audience, and the opportunity to deliver an exceptional performance. I love that the band is like a family, everyone is close in the band, and we support each other through thick and thin, and we have a great time rehearsing together. I have made many friends being in the marching band that I wouldn't have made otherwise, and I'm grateful for that."

Ian Empen

"Being a part of the Pride of Rock Island means that I will always have support in whatever I do!"

Ella Hansen

"To be a member of the pRide of RI is to be a part of something bigger and better than myself. To put in countless hours rehearsing a show that will only be about 6-8 minutes long. To know that failure is 'okay' as long as we get up, move on, and continue to grow. To be part of the pRide of RI is to be a part of a family that will always cheer you on, be proud of you, and tell you they 'love you.' To be a part of the pRide of RI is to be proud."

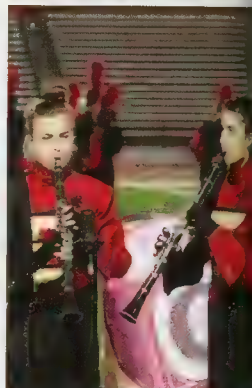
Peh Lay

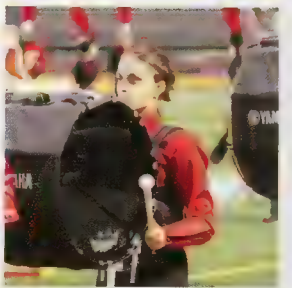
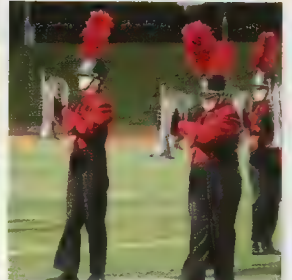
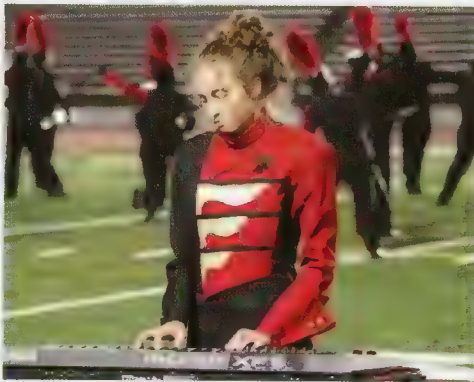
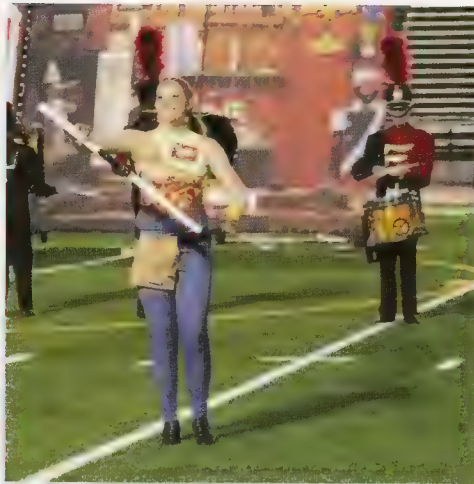
"Being a part of the Pride of Rock Island means positively representing Rock Island. It is also about dedication and building relationships."

Natalie Puthoven

"To me, being a member of the Pride of Rock Island means you're part of a family. You know everyone respects you and cares about you, and it's a bond you know you'll have for a long time. Marching band has really been an amazing experience for me, just because I know we're all together."

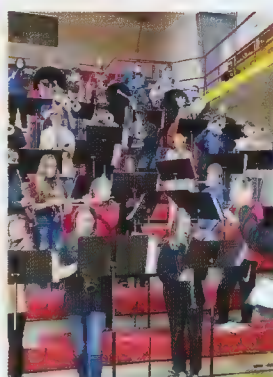
Keller Mathews



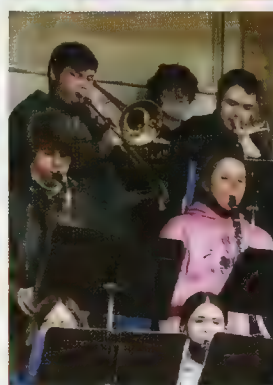




**Rocky's 21-22
All State
Musicians**

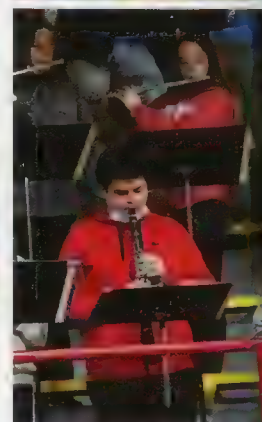
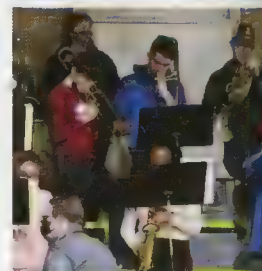


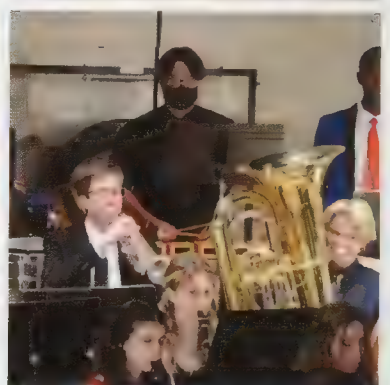
IR Band

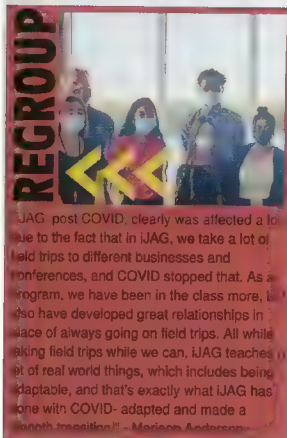


The Band Life

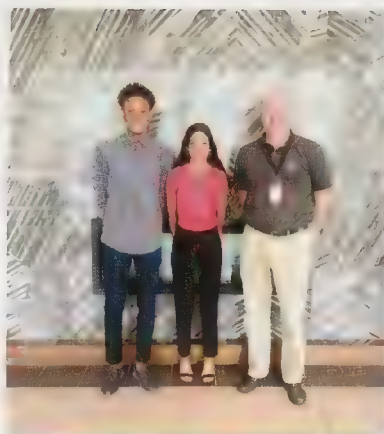
The Rock Island Band Program offers a variety of musical styles for students to enjoy- from traditional concert band music to jazz band music, and even offering a pep band to play at all home conference games for the boys and girls basketball teams. There is something for everyone in the band program for the students and audience.







The Rocky iJAG Program was able to attend the Business Alliance Meeting. According to Mrs. Hughes, "It was a networking event for employers to learn more about iJAG in the Quad Cities, and how they can get involved."



PREPARING FOR OUR FUTURES

Rocky's iJAG Program has long been regarded as a successful program to help students prepare for their futures. Teachers, Mrs. Hughes and Mr. Sharp, continue that tradition today. Mrs. Hughes explains, "My number one goal for my iJAG students is to prepare them for life after high school. No matter the path they choose, I want them to have a plan, be ready, and be successful."

Student leaders in iJAG include Miya Davis, Jayden Putnam, Truth Vesey, Brayden Marshall, Sirenity Morales, DaMarie Terrell, and Keianna Pettis. Hughes notes, "Miya Davis has demonstrated a tremendous amount of leadership, and we're only in the 1st quarter! She's new to iJAG, and was eager to learn more about the program, and how to get involved. I'm excited to see her growth over the next few years."

While the iJAG classes can't yet get back fully to their normal activities, like attending iJAG Nation, participating in hands on activities in class, and having field trips, the class still has been able to accomplish a lot. Mrs. Hughes explains, "I enjoy getting to know my students individually. I usually have a one-on-one with each student to learn more about them, and share personal stories. These one-on-ones are my favorite because it gives them a chance to speak their mind while I listen, and learn about them." Even though the class isn't back to what it was pre-COVID, they are well on their way.





READY PLAYER ONE

Rocky's Game Club is the breakout club of the year with record attendees at meetings.


Rocky's Board Game Club made a triumphant return this year, under the leadership of Ms. Katrina Miley. The club meets regularly in the library, and has attracted many members in a short amount of time. Ms. Miley explains, "Every week, students pick what they'd like to do that day. We have several groups that play Dungeons and Dragons, dozens of classic board games to choose from, and trading card games! Sometimes, we have a Nintendo Wii to play games on, as well."

Phoenix Panick, Eden Taylor, Evan Lyon, Xavier Seibel, and Corbin Gustafson have been the group's leaders this year. At the first meeting, the group attracted 40+ attendees!

No matter the games played or those in attendance, the club has one goal: "Board Game Club's goal is to give students a space to have fun with their friends, and try their hands at new games!" explained Miley. The club is off to a great start this year doing just that!



REGROUP



Board game was small, to begin with, in its first year being a club. After COVID, the club grew twice its size! All of our members who were still in high school joined back, along with our immense amount of freshmen and sophomores that joined us.

Phoenix Panick

THURGOOD MARSHALL STAFF 2021-22



Lori Angel-Young



Meagan Baker



Christopher Britton



Patti Brooks



Tim Burbridge



Chalondra Clark



Amanda Crecelius



Onita
Donaldson-Watkins



Ruth Day



Tia-Farah Edwards



Tiffani Erickson



Johnna Gamble



Jan Gbenyo



Koffi Gbenyo



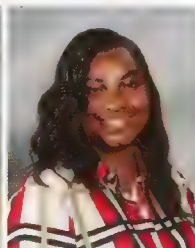
Shannon Griesendeck



Debra Halstead



Donna Harris



Destiney Hearn



Belle Jordan



Scott Lloyd



Heidi Matherly



Amanda Mays



Melody Mote



Jeanne Mueller



Monica Painter



Ms. Quinn



Keith Smith



Sophia Winston



Ms. Taylor



Steve VanDeWalle



Julia Vermeire



Selena Wellington



Michele Williams



Joe Woods



"Being a part of Student Ambassadors really means a lot to me. I feel like it gives me more opportunities to change and lead in positive ways. Being a part of it makes me feel like I'm a true leader, and I have people looking up to me."

Mariyah McQueen, 11



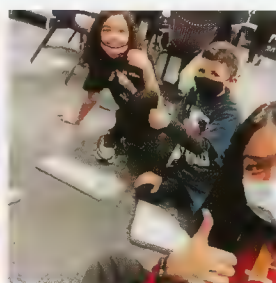
"With the hectic year following COVID-19, I have enjoyed forming new connections, and having helped freshmen and sophomores who are 'new' to our high school campus navigate all things Rocky."

Favour Noya, 12



"Being in Student Ambassadors, to me, is my way to connect to my community, and make an impact on the next generation. It is my way to give back by going and volunteering to help in different ways, whether it be LEAD or cleaning up the community."

Sage Oviatt, 12



REGROUP

"It is still a work in progress, but the Ambassadors are slowly getting back to being the impactful and positive group of human beings they all truly are. Not being able to meet and volunteer on a regular basis has been difficult, but they have all persevered, and remained amazing!"

- Mrs. Parer



Ambassadors

LET'S GET *involved*

German Club



"I decided to join Key Club because I wanted to help others, and contribute to the community in a positive way. It's important to be involved with clubs like Key Club at Rocky because it improves the school environment, and makes Rocky a fun school to be at!"
Ava Coissens


Key Club



Drama Club



Student Council



"I was inducted as a National Honor Society Member as a sophomore because my GPA met the requirement to become a member. I was voted as President my senior year because my peers believed I represented them academically, and as a volunteer for the community. Not only does NHS show academic achievement, but being a member proves that volunteering to better the community is just as important. Bonus: being a member looks great on college applications!"
Georg Feigley

National Honor Society



French Club



Ravens




African American Heritage Club


"I joined AAHC because it gave me a space at Rocky to speak on issues that affect me. Also, it's a group that celebrates our culture and the accomplishments of African Americans. Something I found enjoyment in. It's important to be involved at Rocky because you're what makes your school what it is."
Denise Nyamanguku



Journalism




Board Game Club



Best Buddies



Student Ambassadors



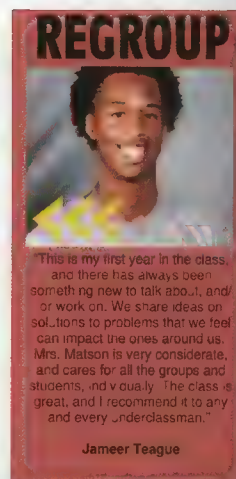
Environmental Action Club



ENTREPRENEURSHIP

@ the Rock

Building a Business, Creating a Career



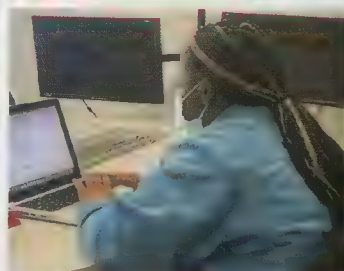
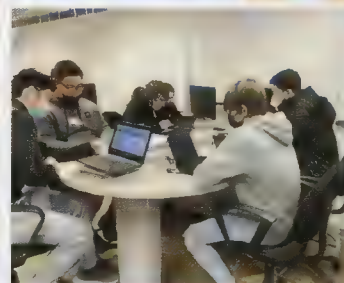
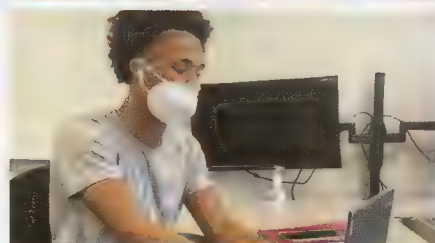
BACK IN BUSINESS

After a year of remote learning, the Entrepreneurship class is back in action, and ready to take on the business world with their ideas.

After almost a year of working remotely, the Entrepreneurship class is back in the classroom, and creating business plans to help possibly jump start their careers! Mrs. Matson, the program's teacher, explains, "The purpose of the class is to start a business, collaborating and working together, and with various coaches and mentors. The ultimate goal is to get funding to start the business after a Shark Tank type pitch competition. The winning team earns \$5000.00."

There are many new students to the class, and Mrs. Matson said that they all have stepped up as leaders within their groups. She states, "One of the challenges faced by the students is the small class size; many students are in teams of one or two people."

Throughout the school year, the students work to develop an idea for a new business, work together to put the plan in action, and pitch the plan to professionals within the QC area. The students attend "the Final Pitch Competition in front of successful business leaders," which is always a proud moment for Mrs. Matson. Whether the students' businesses get funded or not, they still can gain a lot from being in the class. "I hope the students learn the soft skills necessary to be competitive and successful in the work place or in college," Matson states.



REGROUP

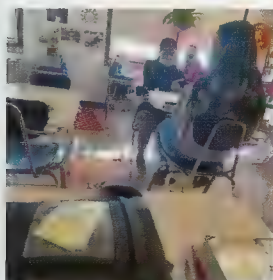


"We are able to be in the classroom, working in person consistently with students, instead of having to join Google meets, and going back and forth between the classroom and online."

Jayia Upton

From a Teacher's View

This year's student interns have discussed many different philosophies that are important in a classroom. Each week, the students meet, they get a new philosophy to look out for in the classroom. Some of the focuses over the weeks have been relationships, essentialism, and progressivism. All of these focus on the students in the classroom, and how they can make connections to students to help build that student- teacher relationship. These philosophies also lets the interns see what being a teacher is really like!



Education Internship

"The goal of the Education Internship is to provide an opportunity for students who are considering a possible career in education to get hands-on experience and foundational knowledge of the profession," said the program leader, Mr. Mertel.

The program is in its second year of being at the high school, but first year of full, in person learning. The interns meet 3 times a week with Mr. Mertel to discuss what they have done in their placements. "I look forward to these times because I get to hear these high school students begin thinking from a different perspective, that of a teacher," Mertel said.

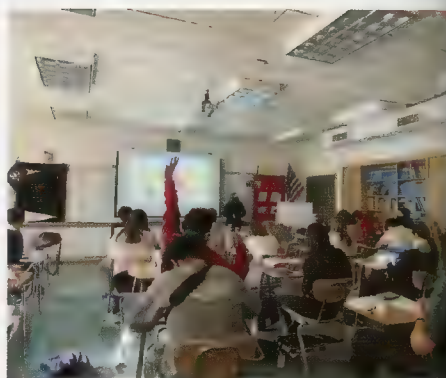
The students in the internship do many activities to prepare them for being a teacher, and what they will need to do if they further their education in teaching. Mertel said, "We recently completed a project that students got to create their own classroom design. I thoroughly enjoyed witnessing their creativity and thoughtfulness that went into the finer details of creating a positive learning environment."



Finding Future Faculty

"I think it is important for this class to be available because it allows students to help determine if education is a career they wish to pursue, without any real risks. It also opens the doors for students who may not have otherwise considered a future in teaching. For those that do take the course, they are entering their college career with a solid foundation in education, and plenty of hands on experience."

Mr. Mertel



Reasoning for our Teaching



"I want to be a teacher because of Mrs. Resch. I never thought a teacher could have that much impact on my life, and I want to be able to do that for someone else."

Hanna Hultgren



"My mom and sister are both teachers. They made it sound like a great career."

AJ Freeman



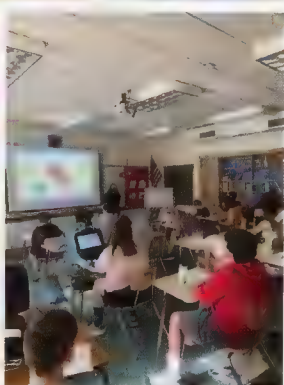
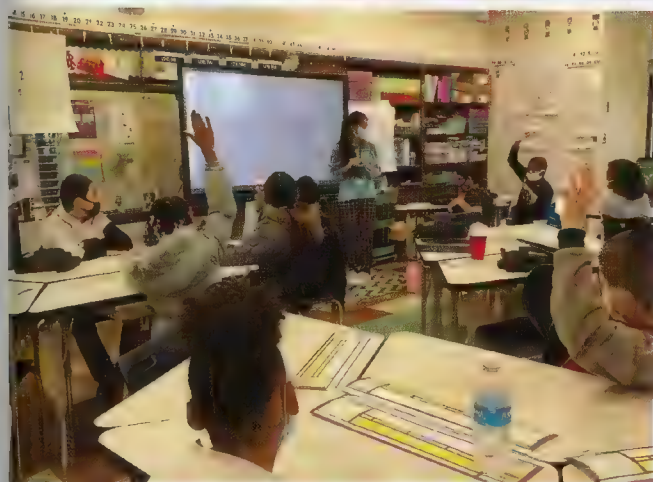
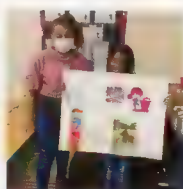
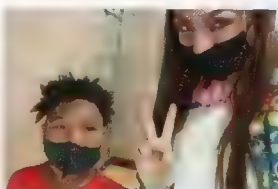
"I want to be a teacher because the education world is changing, and I want to be a part of the new education system. Also, because I want to be able to make a difference in other's lives, like some teachers did for me."

Sage Oviatt



"I want to become a teacher because education is a very powerful weapon that every person deserves. I want to be able to provide that opportunity!"

Ywa Hay Paw

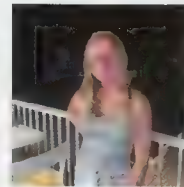


pRide In Our Placement

Some of the students share why they like their placements.

"My favorite part of my placement is that I am able to get one on ones with students, and build connections with them on a personal level."

Bella Allison



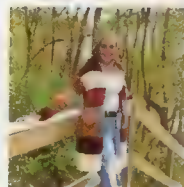
"I love the bonds I get to create, or have created with my students and co-op teacher."

Edie Crayne



"My favorite part about my placement is that I actually went there as a kid. It's super cool to go back, and see some of my teachers, and to be able to help out in my old school."

Mekayla Welsh



"I like my placement and the things I do in it. I love being able to help teach students, and I like to be able to learn more about the skill of teaching, which this placement allows me to do."

Melyni Knott



"I like my placement because it has given me real inside the classroom experience before I made the decision to become a teacher. I love how every student is different in their own ways."

Campbell Kelley



"I love my placement because it lets me spread the knowledge of something I love (music), and has given me the chance to connect to my students and co-op teachers on a personal level."

Sage Oviatt



"I like my placement because I enjoy having fun, and going to the placement to gain the experience."

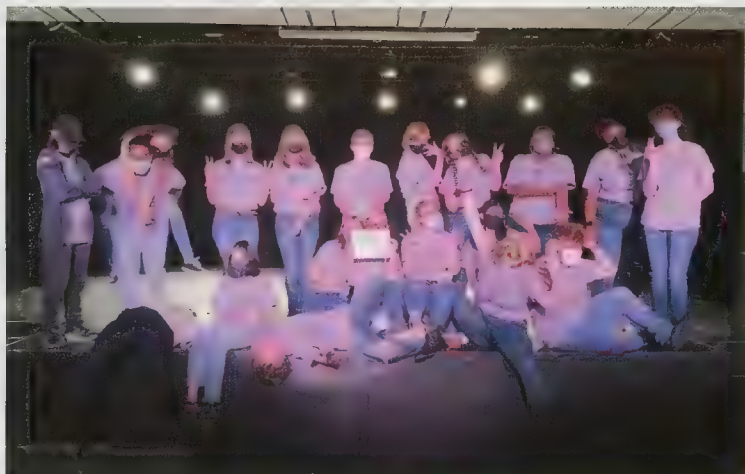
JT Kitterman

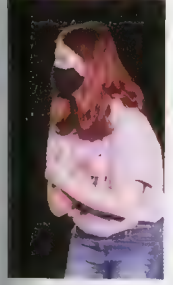


"I like it because it's different, seeing the students react post COVID because they are learning how to interact in class, and share out again."

Ireona Euring







From Hiatus to the Stage

Fall Play is the first production to take place at Rocky, and after being on hiatus, Drama Club is excited to get back in action. With new Drama Club members this year, finding a play, reaching goals, and making memories are the main focus of this year's fall production. "We are learning how to come back and focus, commit, and find the joy in what we do," said Mrs. Dori Foster.

The first step to having an amazing play for everyone to watch is finding one that fits the students auditioning. "30 plays from Too Much Light Makes the Baby Go Blind. We picked it because I know from experience that it's a great ensemble building show. After so much time off the last couple of years, I knew it was important to get them back together, getting reacquainted with each other, and also bringing new members into the group and supporting them," said Foster. With such a large group of people doing a play, where everyone is able to have a part, this can help all the students connect, and get excited about theatre again.

Even with a well thought out choice for a show, the production still had its challenges. For Foster, a challenge this year for the Fall Play was getting new members, "especially the ones who basically skipped most of their junior high time, to understand how we tend to function, and reminding everyone involved that we're back, and commitment is important again," she said. She also wanted the group to build an ensemble. "CHECK! BOOM!" Foster said, meaning that goal was achieved!

The theatre students, both underclassmen and upperclassmen, proved to be leaders during the fall production. "The seniors and a couple veterans really took charge during much of the process," said Foster. They were prepared for coming back to help rebuild the Drama Club, and they did well. "We also have a quality group of underclassmen, who are learning the ropes, and will, hopefully, take the lead a little more this year, as the seniors begin their transition to college. I think the department is going to be left in very capable hands," Foster explained. Coming back from being gone for so long comes with learning and re-learning, and Foster hopes her students take time to do that, stating she hopes they are "taking creative risks, and supporting each other to strengthen the group and the production."

With learning comes connecting, sharing creative ideas, and making memories. Foster's favorite memory from this year's Fall Play was, "Being able to stand back, and watch them run their show. Standing backstage and seeing them work is fascinating. These are moments where I know I've done my job well, and hit a lot of my own goals," she explained.

Coming back to perform the Fall Play was such a success this year for Drama Club! They got amazing new members, chose the perfect play from coming back from a hiatus, reached their goals, connected and learned, and made memories. This year is definitely different, which also means it will always be remembered and shared with future generations.



"My favorite memory made during this year, for me, would be opening night, in general!! It was great!!"
Georgi Feigley, 12



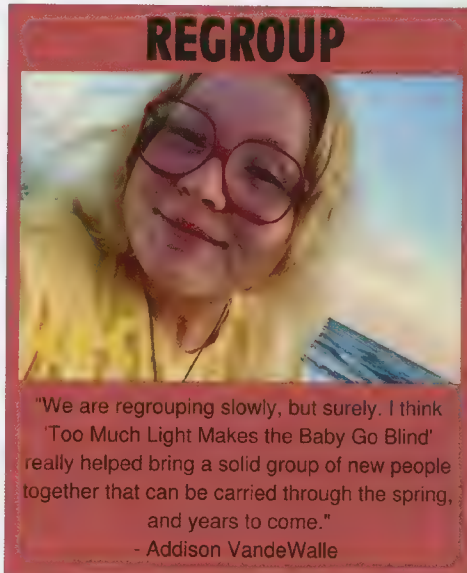
"I think being with people who love theater as much as I do is pretty great. They're all cool, genuinely kind people. (Also writing the vampire song, but that's a close second.)"
Brennan Hampton, 11



"Probably woos because I think it's a fun way to end the show, and it's a tradition that allows me to look forward to doing it senior year."
Layla Eygabroad, 12



"My favorite tradition is woos. It's a fun way to just bond after a show, and kind of relax and unwind before we go talk to the audience."
Raja Mims, 12



"We are regrouping slowly, but surely. I think 'Too Much Light Makes the Baby Go Blind' really helped bring a solid group of new people together that can be carried through the spring, and years to come."
- Addison VandeWalle



"My favorite memory of the Drama Club, this year, was how different this play is because it was 30 plays."
Maryam Alhamdan, 10



"My favorite memory from Fall Play was the cast party at Steak 'n Shake."
Lauren Gottcent, 9

Happiness is Drama Club

The RIHS Drama Club returned with three in person shows after a year without any during the COVID-19 shutdown and remote year.

Rock Island High School



Drama Club 2021-22

REGROUP



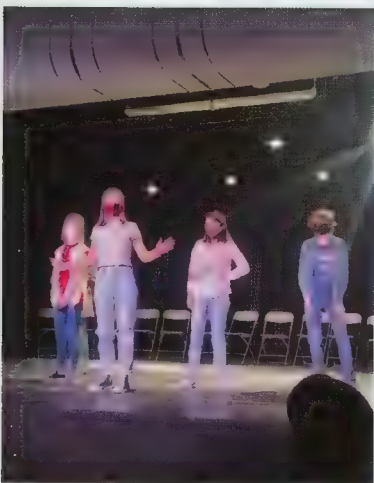
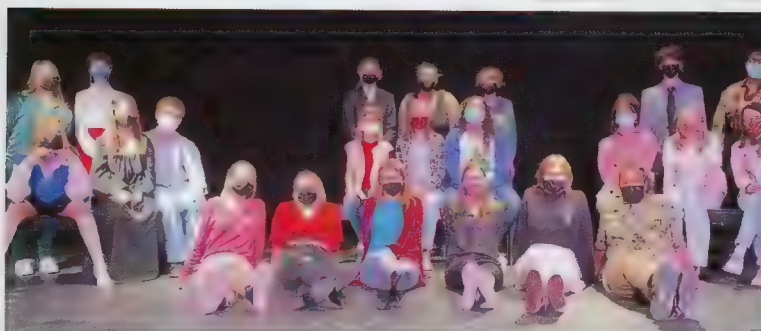
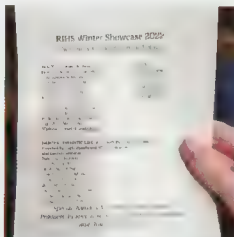
"It's certainly been a challenge in some ways. However, it gave us an opportunity to try different things. We learn something new with each project and have met a lot of fresh, talented and hardworking individuals."

Dorian Foster, Staff

ROCKY PRESENTS:

ONE ACTS

Tracks and Darcy's Cinematic Life





Being a Leader
 "It's a lot of responsibility. I'm very grateful to have a team and cast with so much talent to work with."
 - Addison VandeWalle, Senior



Being a Leader
 "It's very exciting. I'm thinking of possibly going into directing after college, so it's awesome to be able to have experiences like this in high school."
 - Layla Eygabroad, Senior

You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown 2.0



THE PEANUTS GANG



"Charlie Brown! I really like the music in the show. It's just so wonderful!"

- Brennan Hampton, 11



"I'm Lucy this year, and what brings me happiness in musical is making new friends, and creating a fantastic show with passionate people!"

- Georgi Feigley, 12



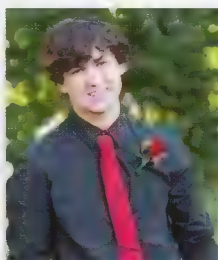
"Snoopy- and I really enjoy the experience and the bonds that the cast creates with each other. I like that I'm able to actually feel confident when I act."

- Nami King, 9



"My role in the current musical is Linus, and I always do musicals, or any type of theater, for the type of people that do theater, as well."

- Thom Elliott, 9



"I play Schroeder in Charlie Brown, and I think that the people and doubles week brings me happiness."

- Carter Cupp, 11



"I play Patty in *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown*. The parts of musical that bring me happiness are the people, performing, and circle."

- Kara Baumunk, 12

When the COVID-19 pandemic first started, Rock Island High School's Drama Club was in the middle of putting together their spring musical. Unfortunately, that musical never saw the stage. Now that the second semester has started, and restrictions are lifted, that means musical season is right around the corner, and students can't wait! Mrs. Dori Foster, the drama director, has been directing at Rocky for 17 years, and this is her first year directing a high school drama club while still in a pandemic. The whole process of putting on a high school musical has been affected by the virus, but the students are excited to return to the stage.

A question that Foster is always asked at the beginning of second semester is, "What's the spring musical?" After much consideration, Foster decided on *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown*. Before picking this year's spring musical, Foster had to think about the changes the pandemic has made on the Rocky Drama Department. "We have a lot of work to do this year, as far as working through this pandemic. The ultimate goal is to have a show, and this one is one of those shows that should allow us to revisit and, in some cases, develop new skills and processes," Foster said.

This isn't the first time Rocky has done a production of *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown*. Rocky's Drama Dept. put on this show in 2012, too. Because of the pandemic, this year's production of *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown* will have its differences from the production of it back in 2012, like the process. "We're beginning to reconstruct some of our process, which will better serve future productions," Foster explained. The pandemic forced them to step back and reflect on where they were, and where they'd like to go.

For Foster, directing high school musicals is a lot, but a process that is well worth the time and commitment. "I don't think there's any way anyone could have fully prepared me to direct my first musical so many years ago. I've learned a great deal over time and with each show," she said. Handling a ton of teenagers can be a lot of work, but can also be rewarding. Her favorite part of directing high school musicals is rehearsing with stage performers and musicians. "There's nothing better than watching them develop into a quality company with a solid show," Foster said. She also finds it "cool when they sort of go auto pilot, and don't really need me much any more." Watching students grow and become more independent with the roles they've earned is something that a director will always remember.

Having to go into a quarantine in 2020 took a toll on the Drama Club, and made it hard to see what the musical would be like in 2022. Being able to go back to the same show they did over a decade ago, while being in a pandemic is amazing and challenging, but also a new experience. *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown* will help the Drama Department develop new skills. Even though putting on a high school musical is intense and tiring, more memories and learning opportunities will be made with this year's show. The cast and crew are excited to start!



What's your favorite part of German Club?

"Being able to see my friends and learn about Germany, and its traditions, which is really fun."

- Eden Taylor



German Club

The 2021 German Club had an amazing start to the year! "We plan on having the German Club visit the local Christmas Market in December, as well as taking a trip to the German-American Center, and to connect with other German Clubs in the area," said Mr. Eli, in hopes of doing more out of school trips and get togethers, after a remote year in 2020-21. From last year's club being online, to this year, being together in person, the group was eager to start their get togethers again.

"In German Club, we have snacks, and either learn about German holidays, watch popular movies/ TV shows in German, and do things like Kahoot," said Zenniphr Bullock. "German Club is about having fun, and giving students from all levels of German an opportunity to hang out together, and learn more about German language and culture. I hope that the German Club is an organization in which students are able to enjoy each other's company, and have fun speaking and learning German," said Mr. Eli.



A LEAGUE OF THEIR OWN



Evan Lyon plays League of Legends remotely.



Evan Lyon and Kade McKillip battle it out in the Super Smash Ultimate Tournament at the WIU campus.



Nathan Welsh plays League of Legends remotely.

The RIHS Esports Team is a new program at Rocky. Led by Coach Vroman, the team is a group "of students that compete against other high schools in a variety of video games, such as League of Legends, Rocket League, FIFA21, Madden21, and Smash Ultimate," Vroman explains.

Lucas Rettig is the leader of the Legends Team, while Ashton Anderson is the leader of the Rocket League Team during the fall. Tyler Davis and Abraham Blanco have also had a great impact on the League of Legends Team. Currently, the team is ranked 6th out of 45 teams they are competing with.

The team is competing remotely, although Coach Vroman has a lot of big plans for the team's future. She states, "Esports members compete from the comfort of their own homes on match days. We hope to get a space at Rocky dedicated to Esports in the future."

The team currently meets once a week, and is working to improve communication and rebuild their program after a start during COVID.

League of Legends placed 58 among 86 teams. They started off the season strong, landing in 1st place for the first 4 weeks. Next year, there will be an Esports room at the high school, with two PS4's and 3 Nintendo switches, along with gaming computers. The teams also joined a new league, IHSEA, where they will be competing in new games. The fall season will include Rocket League and Overwatch. The winter season will be League of Legends and Super Smash Ultimate, and the spring season will be Valorant and Fortnite.

REGROUP



"The COVID year did not really have a huge impact on our Esports because our team members were able to play remotely from home. It was nice to meet face-to-face with the Esports team for the first time this year."

- Mrs. Vroman



Brennan Hampton, Kal Boswell, Georgi Feigley, Kade McKillip and Evan Lyon had a blast at the WIU Super Smash Ultimate Tournament.

Esports Team

Back Row (L to R):

Lucas Rettig, Abraham Blanco, Tyler Davis, Evan Lyon, Kade McKillip, Zack Draper

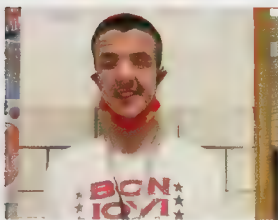
Front Row (L to R):

Sean Manary and Nathan Welsh

Not pictured: Max Zahner, Elian Blanco, Robert Walter, Ashton Anderson



YOU GOT A FRIEND IN ME



"My favorite part of Best Buddies is seeing my buddy every day, and asking if she can come and watch me bowl. My favorite thing to do is give my buddy a hug!"
- Colin Bensich

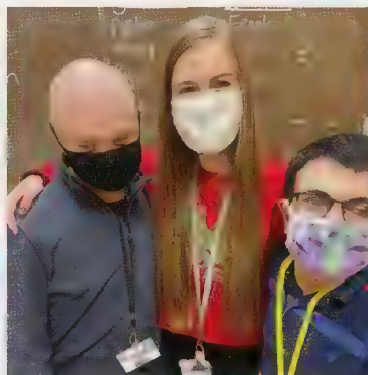


"Best Buddies is excellent! We take lots of selfies, read books, and watch movies together. My favorite memory was when we went to the mall and shopped."
- Sydney Crawford



"I like talking to my buddy about sports and movies. I love hanging out with my buddy. All my memories with Best Buddies are my favorite!"
- Lillian Rodriguez

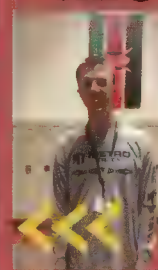
MEET THE BUDDIES



BEST OF BUDS

The Best Buddies is an international program that builds one-to-one friendships between people with and without intellectual and developmental disabilities, offering social interactions, while improving the quality of life and level of inclusion for a population that is often isolated and excluded. Through their participation, people with disabilities form meaningful connections with their peers, gain self-confidence, and self-esteem, and share interests, experiences, and activities that many other individuals enjoy. Students who participate here at RIHS can also join at the college level when they graduate. There are many opportunities to be involved with the Best Buddies organization, and Rocky students love their time in the group.

REGROUP

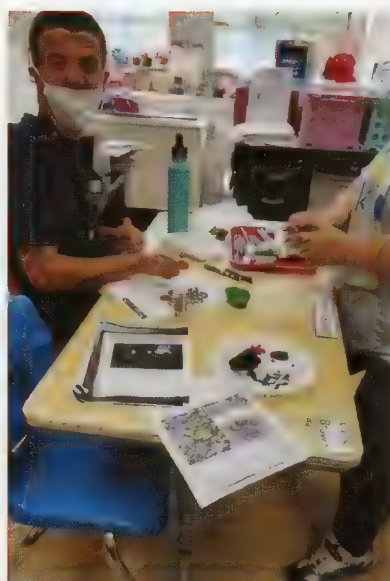


"After a year away due to COVID, it's fun to hang out with my buddy again. We watch movies, hang out, and do crafts. I feel good to be in Best Buddies."
- Colin Bensich




Learning to Be Impactful Members of the QC

The Functional Class works on community building projects, and gets ready to walk in the Homecoming Parade!



REGROUP



<<<

"Our students are having a hard time adjusting to what a normal school day looks and feels like. Last year, all students were online learning, and now, they are coming to school full time."

- Ms. Miers

FUNCTIONAL EDUCATION

FUN

Rock Island High School's Functional Education courses go far beyond the reaches of what most do in a high school class. This class functions more like a family- as the class has a Christmas party, their own float in the Homecoming parade, lessons on cooking and grocery shopping, and a Thanksgiving Feast. Ms. Meghan Miers, one of the course teachers, said, "The goal of a Functional class is to have our students become as independent as possible. We focus on daily living skills, such as cooking, laundry, grocery shopping, keeping a budget, learning the city bus routes, etc." She hopes the students will "be able to function as independently as possible by the time they leave high school (22 years old). We also like to see those 'aha!' moments when a concept finally clicks for a student."

Miers explains her favorite activity that the class does is "go on Community-Based Instructional Trips at least twice a month. The CBI trips include students planning to go somewhere in our community, using Go Green Metro to find which bus route we will use to get there, setting a budget for the trip, and knowing what time we will have to leave to come back to school on time." Miers goes on to state and explain their shopping trip to Hy-Vee for their annual Fall Feast. Miers explains that her favorite memory "is from two years ago. We had the students participate in Secret Santa. We took all of the students to Walmart, and gave them a budget of \$10 each. The students were able to shop for their person (another student in the class), wrap their gifts for their person, and on the last day of school, all students got to unwrap their gift, and find out who their Secret Santa was. All of the students were so excited to see their person open up the gift they chose for that person. They were all smiles!"

THE KEY TO REGROUPING

For school clubs, regrouping after being online for a year isn't always easy, but for Rock Island High School's Key Club, it wasn't difficult. Even as a recently restarted club, they have lots of students involved, with many student leaders. Co-advisor, Miss Denton, explained the group's goal, stating, "To reach out and help as many people as we can to improve our Rock Island community."

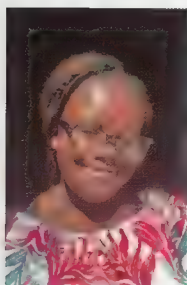
Key Club is adjusting to the new year after a rough year in 2020-21. "Last year, we met virtually each week, and were still able to do some small events, but we have come back this year, stronger than before, and more eager to help. Our club has doubled what it was before COVID," said Denton. This year has proved successful for the club, as they have doubled their membership.

The Key Club Leaders this year are Ava Coussens and Favour Noya. Their job is to lead volunteer events and fundraisers, and engage with the Rock Island community. "My favorite part of being a Key Club leader is being able to take action, and care for others in my community, as well as inspire fellow members to do the same," said Coussens. Noya's favorite part is writing letters. "Handwritten letters are honestly so underrated because it requires thought, time, and effort. Either it be people in nursing homes or Rocky staff, I love showing appreciation, while having fun with my peers," said Noya. Knowing that students have fun doing group activities shows how much of an impression it makes on their lives. "I hope students gain an understanding of the impact their actions can make, even with small acts of kindness. I hope they learn how rewarding it is to help others for the sake of helping, and carry that feeling with them after they graduate," Denton explained.

Key Club helps Rocky by assisting other clubs. "We mostly help support other clubs, like EAC, StuCo, and NHS," explained Denton. They also help with Closet-2-Closet, Generations, and other service projects in the Quad Cities. While the group has been busy this year, they have also encountered challenges. "Because we are still amidst the pandemic, our biggest challenge is that we have to keep a distance from the people that we are helping," stated Denton.

Despite the challenges, Key Club has made a lot of progress. "My favorite memory this year has to be making care packages for our teachers here at school because it was the members of the group who thought of this idea and wanted to show gratitude for people that make Rock Island High School feel so special to them," Denton said.

Regrouping is hard, but never impossible, as shown by Rocky's Key Club. They had many new faces, double the amount before COVID, and they also have two club leaders, Mrs. Churchill and Miss Denton. Their goal this year was to reach out and help the Rock Island community, and they did so by volunteering for fundraisers and events, writing letters for nursing homes and Rocky staff, helping other clubs at Rock Island High School, and making care packages for the teachers at Rocky. They showed that caring for communities is always important to do, but something that is more important is spreading the care. They got more people involved, especially the students, and they helped Rocky continue to be a positive place.



"I love showing appreciation, while having fun with my peers."
- Favour Noya, 12



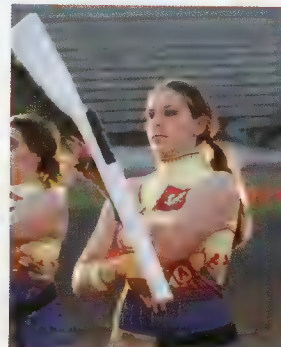
"Being a leader in Key Club means setting an example for the rest of the Rock Island High School community. A leader of Key Club is always doing their best to make a positive impact within the school, as well as Rock Island."
- Ava Coussens, 12

REGROUP

"Regrouping Key Club after the COVID year has been a great experience since we get to meet in person again, and we have more ways to participate in community events."
- Miss Denton



Leaders Seniors



"Color Guard means to me- family. A different, hard working family that you get to see improve, and change, and work together, as one. It's the best feeling ever."
- Kaylee Plohr, 11



"Color Guard was my reason to come out of my shell more :) Ever since I've joined, I've been more open, and less shy."
- Brisa Perez, 12



"Color Guard is another family to me. We all work hard, and have the best time doing it! I loved seeing how our show came together!"
- Georgi Feigley, 12



COLOR GUARD 2021

The Color Guard consisted of two seniors, three juniors, two freshmen, and two 8th graders this year. They were the Toy Makers of a magical and enchanting toy shop for this year's show. This is the first year back for Rocky's Color Guard, and they won 2nd in Class at Plainfield South, 1st in Class at Dunlap, and 1st in Class and 1st in Show at Western Illinois University.

Finding Your Passion

Why did you take the CNA class?



"I chose to take CNA because I am very passionate about going into the medical field and helping others."

Ella Munday



"I've always wanted to take care of others, such as my parents. There hasn't been enough people in the medical field lately, and people need the help."

Cassie Engels



"I joined CNA to open up opportunities for me before college to get a feel for the medical field. It's a good way to start my education, and get me on the right path."

Farrah Kraklow



"I have always wanted to pursue nursing as a career after high school, and having the opportunity to do the program as a senior prepares me for the field I'm going into."

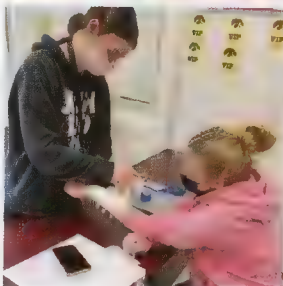
Mackenzie Brokaw



"I took CNA to better prepare myself for college. Getting hands on experiences, and going to nursing homes to help others really pushed me to take this class."

Sophia Sigler

SERVING THE COMMUNITY



The 2021-2022 CNA program takes advantage of every opportunity to take a group picture! **Pictured Right:** The CNA program takes their annual group picture in scrubs, in front of the rock. **Pictured Middle:** The CNA students show off their CNA masks. **Pictured Far Right:** The CNA students show off their full PPE gear.





"My favorite thing about CNA is learning the skills of how to take care of others, and keep them healthy. It also encourages me to continue my education in the medical field."

Delia Schwartz



"My favorite thing about the program is getting to know the residents during clinicals, and working around nurses and doctors. It helps me see what path I want to take."

Francisca Ibarra



"My favorite thing about the program is getting a head start into the medical field before I graduate. Being as young as I am, I'm very lucky to be able to attend clinicals and meet all the residents."

Rebecca Ferguson



GIVING BACK

The CNA students get very involved with the community they serve. They participate in the Hunger Drive, as well as holiday events at the nursing home, where they have clinicals.



FROM PUPILS TO PROS

The CNA Program gives students an inside look at what it's like to care for patients. For the students wanting a career in the medical field, this program gives them the perfect opportunity, and the amount of experience to get students ready for the next step of their futures.

Mrs. Stribling, the CNA teacher, has many goals for her students coming into the program, including, "Learning content of the program" and especially, "To become the most compassionate caregivers they can be," she explains.

Mrs. Stribling does a great job when leading this program, and her favorite part is being able to see the growth in her students, from beginning to end. She explains, "I love to see the students' progress throughout the year," and watching them, "Grow into the medical field, and after high school, into the medical professionals they want to be."

This course not only gives students insight into the medical field, but it teaches students valuable lessons. They attend clinicals, learn how to care for others, and much more, all while having fun.

REGROUP



"Students are adjusting to being in the classroom full time, and doing an awesome job, despite still dealing with COVID."

- Mrs. Stribling

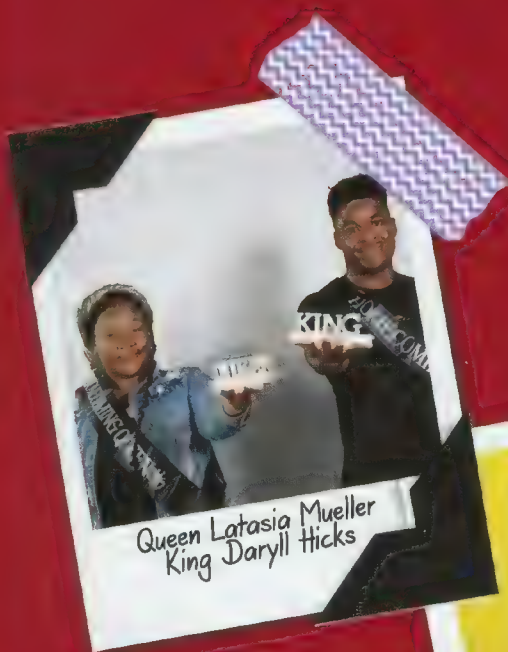


REIMAGINE



Here at Rocky, pride is a priority, and our students show it every day, in and out of the classroom. However, with a year at home, the pride at Rock Island High School has a different look, REimagined, if you will. With sophomores getting their first look at the high school experience, and freshmen doing the same, it gives the chance for juniors and seniors to show their leadership to REflect and REImagine how our pride looks here, and be able to take charge for us, the students. Pride is being able to let our voices be heard, and letting our unique personalities show through our clothes, cars, and phones. With Homecoming, Powderpuff, and every loyal Quarry Crazy showing up to each game to support their RockTown, it's safe to say our pride is here to stay.

our favorite memories



Queen Latasia Mueller
King Daryll Hicks

"We do not
remember the
days, we
remember the
memories."
- Cesare Pavese



"She believed she could, so
she did." -RS Gray

"Be silly. Be honest. Be
kind."
- Ralph Waldo
Emerson



"No limits."
- Tramajhae Lewis



Tiny Titans



"It isn't where you came from, it's where
you are going that counts."
- Ella Fitzgerald



Twinning

"Embrace
every
challenge"



I did it!

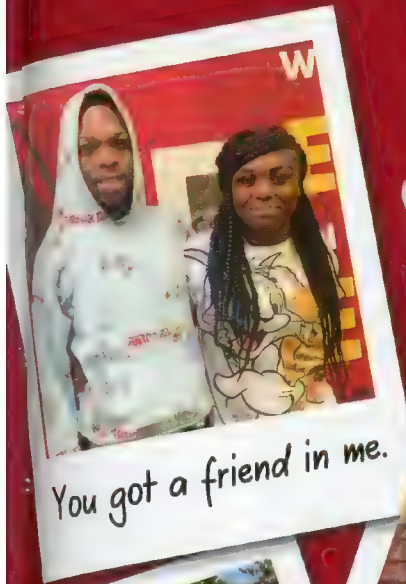
*"Is it too late to be a
freshman again?"*



Challenge accepted!



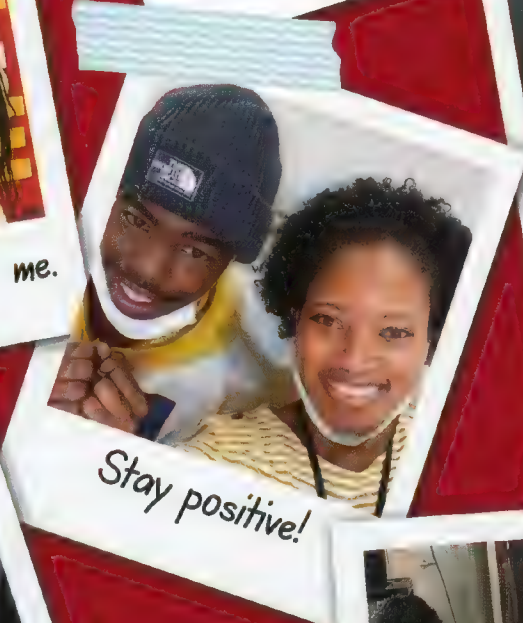
Stay silly!



You got a friend in me.



#Senior22



Stay positive!



Always exploring



Teamwork makes the
dream work.

*"Good
attitude
Maximum
effort"*

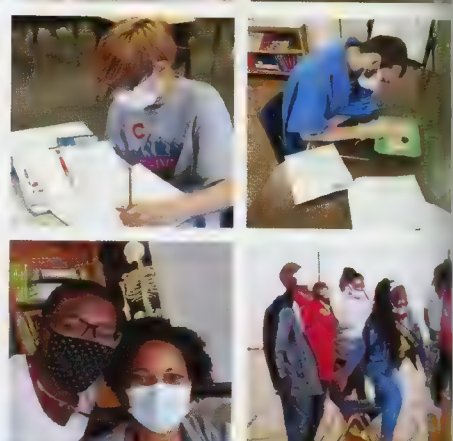
We are Thurgood Marshall



What it means to be a Titan:

1. Being true to yourself; being a leader.
2. Being void of fakeness; being honest with yourself and others.
3. Making others feel good and complimenting others.
4. Being nice to yourself and others.
5. Encouraging, helping, supporting, and being there for others.
6. Courageous classmates that stand up for themselves and others, and make wise choices.

- Simia Ayers



redefine our time

Thurgood Marshall is Rock Island's alternative high school. Students and staff at TMLC work to build a positive atmosphere, where students feel comfortable to take risks and be themselves, as well as achieve academically. This year, they had their first Homecoming King and Queen, who were announced at the Homecoming Assembly in the stadium. This is Mrs. Edwards' first year as principal, and she has big plans to make her Titans proud.



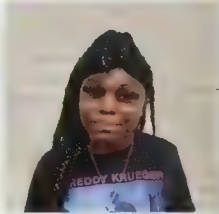
"Being a Titan is to be someone that stands out for greatness of achievement."



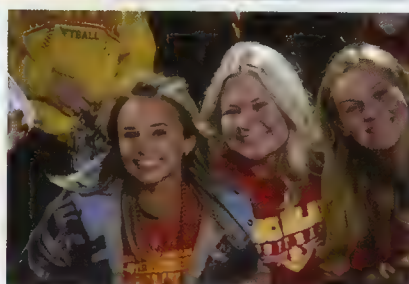
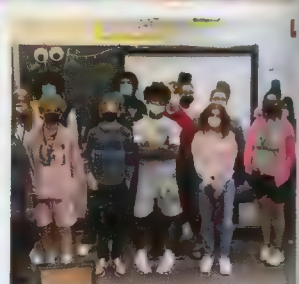
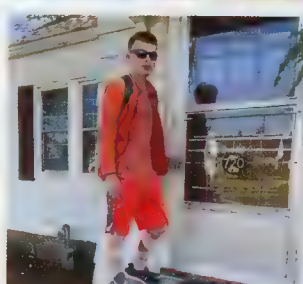
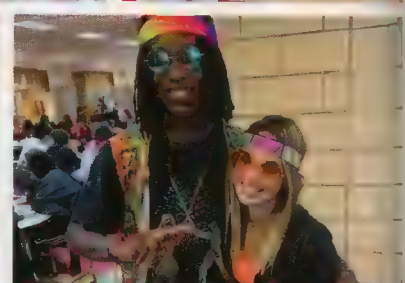
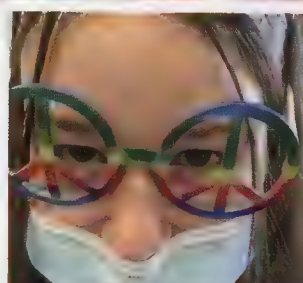
It is being a member of a successful family."



- Mr. Burbridge



»» SPIRIT



WEEK



Pajama DAY



TACKY TOURIST DAY



CLASS COLOR DAY





Ella Munday and Zack Beckman



Imari McDuffy and Amarion Nimmers



Uda Kimba and Aoci Bernard



Bella Allison and Elijah Boeye



Eliza Aleman and Xander George



Class of '22 Homecoming Court



Emily Allison and Marieon Anderson



Mallory Day and Adrian Zetina



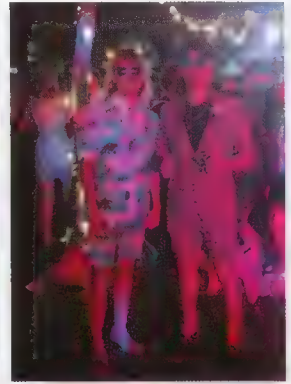
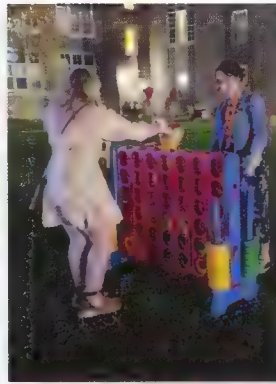
Kelly Canning and Jacob Rohwer



Kyi Man and Drew Jarding



Arianna McRae and Elijah Reese





"I like that we come together as a school to be there for our sports teams, and I like that we can actually make an impact on the game."

Eli Boeye



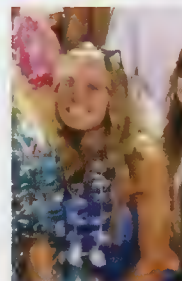
"It's so energetic and lively! I love supporting our teams and losing my voice at every game! My favorite part is when we score, and everyone gets loud!"

Alaina Muller



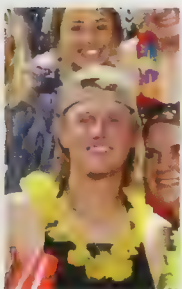
"There's a lot of energy in the student section, and it's a lot of fun to be a part of. My favorite part is definitely chastising the opposing team."

Pearce Lelonek



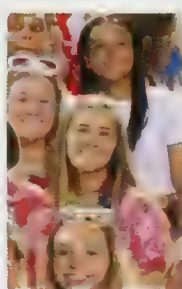
"It feels amazing to be a part of a student section. My favorite part is when there's a close game, and everyone in the student section gets hyped up and loud."

Sydney Quinones



"Honestly, it is way different as a senior, being in the student section. The pride we carry with the school is outstanding. The energy is my favorite part because even if we're down in the game, our section continues to cheer, and compete with the opposing team's student section."

Arianna McRae



"I like all the energy all of the students bring to support the team."

Myles Richardson



"It makes Friday nights so much more exciting and fun! Especially since I'm a senior, I want to make the best of it. My favorite part would be cheering on the football team with all of my best friends, making unforgettable memories!"

Bella Allison



"My favorite part is being able to cheer on my classmates who I've grown up with my whole life, and play the sport they've worked so hard on, and watch them enjoy it."

Brycen McGarry



"My favorite part is being able to show off my school spirit and support my friends."

Jacob Rohwer



"One of the best memories of high school is the student section! Being hyped for our friends all around makes us play better in each sport."

Gabriella Taber



"I enjoy being a part of the student section because it brings students together in support of our athletes."

Hunter Melody



"My favorite part about the student section is showing up with all of my friends together, and enjoying the laughs and smiles we all share throughout the games. We always get really hyped, so it makes the thrill of the game really exciting and enjoyable."

Kelly Canning



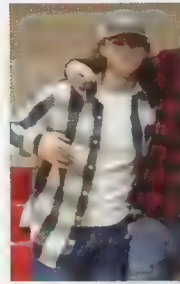
"For basketball, my favorite part is being able to see our players get hyped (which makes me hyped), and just being involved and having fun!!"

Kaniya Davis



"I absolutely love being in the student section. It's so fun cheering on the same people we've grown up with. To see and hear everyone involved and cheering is such a fun feeling and memory."

Madison Chastain

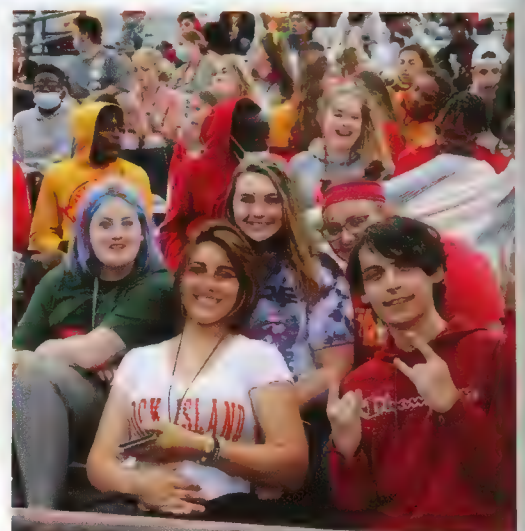


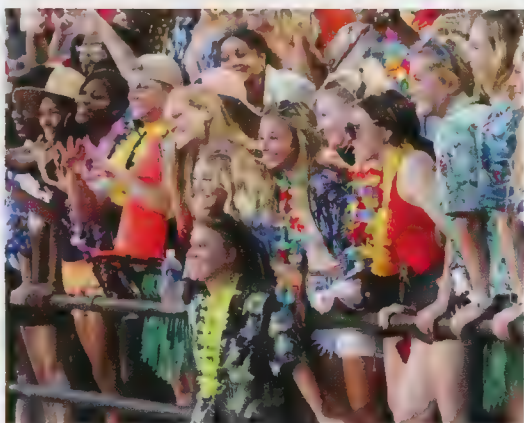
PACK the PLACE



The Return of the **QUARRY CRAZIES**

Each year, the Rocks crowd the student section in different themes to cheer on the football and basketball teams.





Before each season, the Quarry Crazies decide on a variety of popular themes to wear while they cheer on the Rocks. For the football season, this year, a few themes were Beach, Red & Gold, Halloween, Black-Out, Pink-Out, and Pajamas. The crowd seemed to really show out, and enjoy the Beach theme, as it was the first theme of the season. The students met in the parking lot before the game, walked in behind the band, and they had a huge crowd with a whole lot of pride.

TEAM THEMES



BLACK OUT

VS. MOLINE



VS.
GENESECO



VS. ALLEMAN



VS.
GALESBURG



V.S. UT



V.S. STERLING



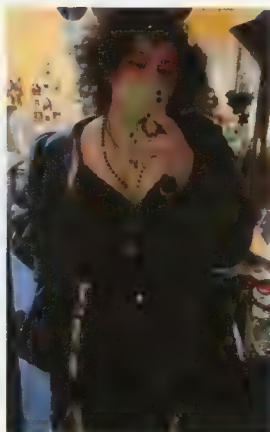
STREETWEAR

- Kyi Man, 12

This trend is staying strong, originating in the late 1970's, with sneakers, casual but professional clothing, and all with an urban aesthetic.

- Juliauna Raymond, 11

Alt. stays far from mainstream trends and has a punk/grunge vibe

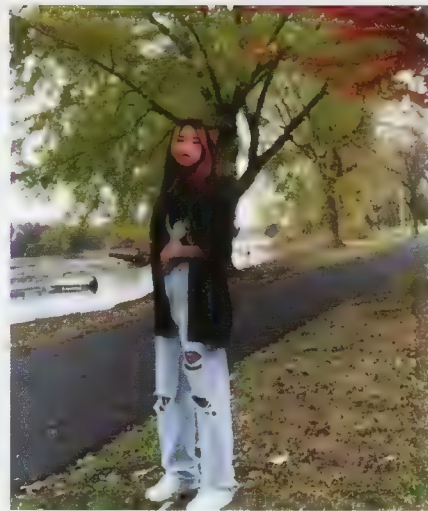


ALTERNATIVE

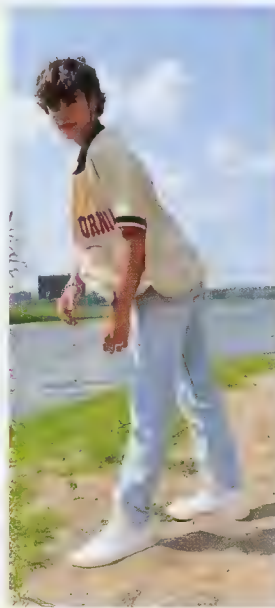


- Cristee Paw, 11

Y2K is the decade coming back. It uses a relaxed fit style, and brings back hip hop, rap, and R & B styles.

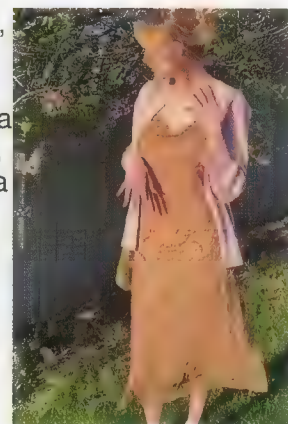


DECADERS

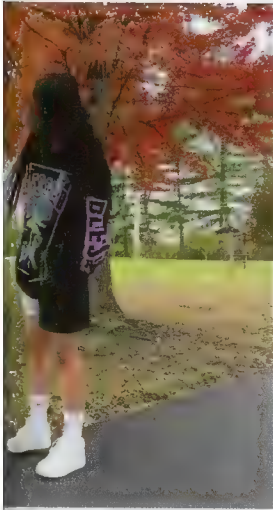


- Emma Richey, 12

Cottage core is a rural farm style, with a touch of a fantasized fairytale.



COTTAGE CORE



FASHION TRENDS!

Coming back to school has brought many new and old trends and styles back to the halls.

- Y2K: Nostalgic, relaxed, and diverse.

- STREETWEAR: Casual, urban, and sporty

- ALTERNATIVE: Dark, different, and bold.

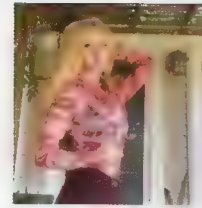
- COTTAGE CORE: Soft, rural, and rustic

- ACADEMIA: Preppy, unique, and simplistic.



"I would say my style is dressy, and mixed with my own flaw."

- Keziah Anderson, 9



"I would describe my style as all over the place. I dress however I feel, depending on the day."

-Lilly Hayes, 10



"I would describe my style as simplistic but unique, with gentle colors."

- Aidan Henderson, 11



"My style is whatever I am feeling when I wake up."

- Drew Jarding, 12



- Bailey Hecker, 11

This style has a preppy and unique energy.



Academia

Ms. Johnson- "Growing up, I was obsessed with Michael Jordan and his shoes. I love the colors and the designs. As I got older and made more money, I was able to buy more.

Then, I started teaching, and noticed that students would talk to me when I wore my Js. I have been able to build relationships with my students through my shoes, which really helps now since I'm getting pretty old."



Mr. Williams- "I think my style evolved when I started working for Champs Sports after graduation from college. My shoe game really took off back around 2013 or 2014, when I discovered the Nike #BeTrue line."





The Gustafsons- Mr. Gustafson, Luke, and Grace

"I like attending school with a family member because it's nice to have a familiar face to see in the halls. Also, having my dad there makes it a lot more convenient if I need anything throughout the day."

- Grace Gustafson



Isabella and Emily Allison

"Going to school with a family member is a unique experience, especially when that family member is the same age as you! I have been fortunate enough to play volleyball with my family member, and it makes for great chemistry. I was lucky because I was able to go through my first couple days of high school, knowing I would always have a friend I could turn to, if I needed it."

- Emily Allison



Georgi and Lulu Feigley

"A little crazy because we are competitive with each other, but it's great to see Lulu at school!"

- Georgi Feigley



Maddie and Alexis Carroll

"I think it is fun to go to school with my sister because we get to hang out, and go to all of the same school events."

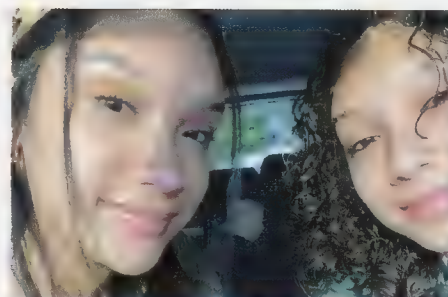
- Alexis Carroll



Hunter and Mr. Melody

"Going to school with a family member is definitely an experience. You've always got someone there for you if you get yourself into a bad situation, or need help with work. As this year passes, I get closer to the end of going to the same school as my dad, the man who has gotten me here."

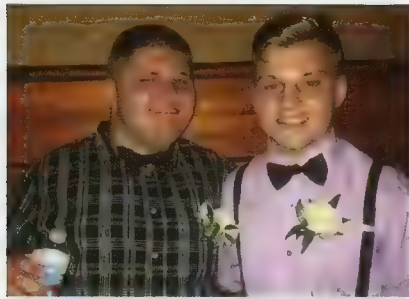
- Hunter Melody



Eliza and Cristina Aleman

"I like being able to ride to school together. I also enjoy seeing her in the halls."

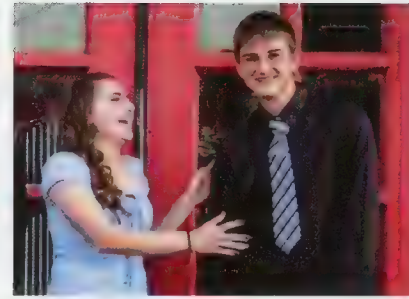
- Eliza Aleman



Drake and Bryce Lowry

"I get to walk home every day with him. Before, I used to have to wait for his bus to get here. Now, we both get to walk home together."

- Bryce Lowry



Jade and Gavin Gasper

"It's like having a built in friend. Everywhere you go, you know someone because of their friends. If you don't have someone to talk to, or somewhere to sit, you can rely on them."

- Jade Gasper



Kaiya and Alayna McKinley

"My sister is always there whenever I need support. I know she is right there to help me. I always enjoy the car rides to school every morning, too!"

- Alayna McKinley



Gunnar and Delaney Carroll

"I enjoy going to the same school with my younger brother. I like to mess with him in front of his friends, and talk about what teachers we both had at one point. I also get to have lunch with him, and even though I don't sit with at his table, I know I could if I wanted to. So, it's fun to be able to go to school with him."

- Delaney Carroll

together at home & at school

Rocky students explain
what it is like to go to
school with family.

NEED My...!!

These are the things students just cannot live without on a day-to-day basis!



- Out of 40 students here at Rocky, these are the results for who uses Spotify or Apple Music more.

Spotify

V.S

Apple Music

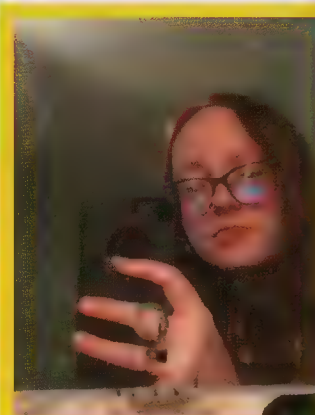
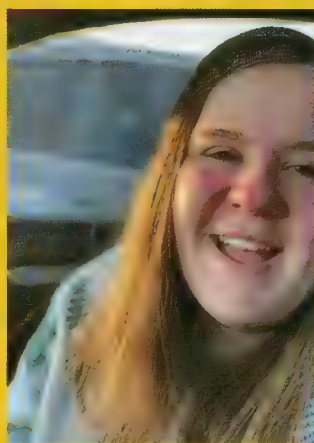


"I cannot live without my glasses. I'm literally blind."

- Mahiela Hewitt, 11

"I can't live without my sparkling water because the flavors are immaculate!"

- Joslynn Henderson, 9



"I just can't live without my phone. That's it."

- Catilin Eves, 11

Damian Hobert, 12

"I can't live without creativity and legos in this world."



- Jayden Putnam, 10

"I can't live without my hair gel."

- Dylan Frantz, 9

"I can't live without my sweatpants."





"I wake up, get dressed, brush my teeth, say, 'Bye,' to all my pets, and go to school."

Monty Murdock



"On school days, my alarms are at 6 AM... then, I get into the shower. If I didn't hit snooze, I make a smoothie for breakfast. If I hit snooze, I'm having a Belvita. Thursdays are hard because I have to take the trash out, and every other week, the recycling. I always try to be at school by 7:30."

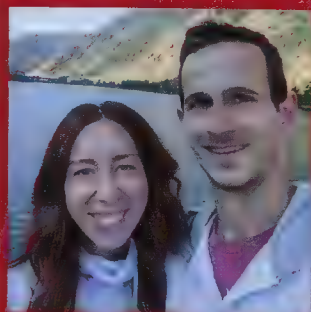
Mr. Williams



"Most mornings, I set my alarm for 6AM, and I get up, pick out my outfit, and get dressed. I get all ready, brush my hair and teeth, get my stuff together, and decide what shoes to wear. I'll eat breakfast and leave by 7:30."

Kaiya McKinley

MORNING



"Each morning is different, but I am always up by 5 AM. That's time to myself. Some mornings, I work out. Other mornings, I use the quiet time to grade or prep for school. There's always coffee and oatmeal involved. We wake our daughter up about 6:30, get her fed and dressed, and then, we're out the door by 7:20. Mornings are definitely more rushed now that I have another human to get ready."

Mrs. Mertel



"If it's an early morning, I wake up at 5:20, get dressed, and then, go to swim practice."

Julian Anderson



"I always wake up a little later than I intend to. I'll throw my hair up, and put on a little bit of mascara, so I look a bit more alive. Most of the time, I'll make some coffee to help me to wake up, and I'll try to remember to eat something. Normally, I'll leave around 6:45-6:50, so I can get to school by 7:00."

Lauren Groene

ROUTINE

Our Favorite Restaurants





SIGEL'S SUCCESS STORY

Mr. Sigel has been working in education for 33 years, and in various roles throughout his career. He has been working as a counselor here at Rocky for 21 years. Before he was a counselor, Sigel was an English teacher for six years at Galesburg High School. Then, he moved to Rock Falls to continue teaching English for six more years. That's when he came to Rocky, and has been a counselor, Rocky's Head Boys Basketball Coach (until this year), and the Assistant Boys Golf Coach here ever since. Sigel's favorite aspect of working in education has been "feeling young being in a high school." He stated, "Growing up, and being around Homecoming, and the fun activities that go on at Rocky" have also been memorable.

Sigel explains, "Having the opportunity to be able to see my three kids graduate from high school, while currently working at Rocky," has been his favorite memory here. He loves the "pride in the whole city after a big success," like winning the State Championship in 2011. His legacy in Rocky athletics cannot be questioned after a State Championship and many successful seasons leading the Rocks on the basketball court.

After Sigel retires, he hopes to be remembered as a staff member who worked hard and cared. He hopes students remember him for, "Having high expectations for each and every one of his students," he explained. Sigel's plans for retirement are "continuing his athletic business," he said. He would also like to continue working with the Fellowship of Christian Athletes. With having so much more free time, he plans to "be around the golf course more," he said. Sigel's success is not limited to his athletes, but extends to all students with whom he worked, as well as the athletes he helped mentor through F.C.A. He hopes that people continue to "take pride in the school," he explained. As his legacy shows, there's a lot to be proud of.

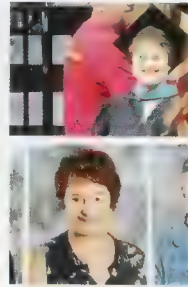
AN OVATION FOR OSWALD

After 33 years in education, and 5 years of Mrs. Oswald making her mark here at Rocky, she is ready to take the next step to retirement. Throughout all of her years, she has been a special education teacher, intervener, administrator, and concluded with being the freshman administrator at Rocky.

Throughout her years, Mrs. Oswald has made countless lifelong memories in education. She has made relationships with families, staff, and her students. One of her favorite memories is graduation, "I love going to graduation, and watching the students I have seen from ninth grade all the way up to seniors. That would probably be my best memory. It just encompasses why I am here, and what you're here for," she stated. She explained her favorite aspect of working in education is being able to, hopefully, make a difference, and being able to navigate the freshmen, to help them have a successful high school experience.

Mrs. Oswald's plans for retirement are to spend time with her adored new granddaughter and family. She also plans to travel often. Oswald explained, "My husband and I are pretty young, but we planned early in our careers, and raised four kids, and now, we are ready to go home some fun!" She hopes that her students remember that she always did her best to help, and that she loved dancing (as she could often be found dancing on the sidelines at games), and to "have fun, we just need to have fun." Her parting words to the Rock are, "Advocate for yourself. I know that students don't always have control over what is happening right now, but if they advocate and ask for help, I think it will make a big difference."

Mrs. Oswald will be missed by so many, and has made such a big impact here at the Rock. She hopes to be able to come back and visit when she can. The Rock has been made a better place with Mrs. Oswald.



LACK LEAVES LIFE LESSONS

Mrs. Lisa Lack has been in the education system for 37 years. Before she got certified to teach, she started off teaching swim lessons at the age of 14. This year marks her 29th year of working at Rock Island High School. She came to Rocky, and started off as the first volleyball coach during '93. She has taught physical education and health classes. Lack explained that, "I really enjoyed playing badminton and table tennis with the students in phys ed. In health classes, I suppose the healthy relationships unit provided a lot of laughs," Lack said. "The students, and having the summers off to spend time with my own children," was her favorite aspect of working in education. Lack hopes her students will remember that she was passionate about what she taught, and that she is silly. Lack has many plans after retirement, but she explained that, "Golfing, and traveling in the RV with my husband to somewhere warmer during the winter months," is her main plan after retirement. Her parting words to the Rock are, "You have to love yourself before you can love someone else."

MAGERKURTH'S MAJOR IMPACT

Mrs. Sue Magerkurth has been a fixture as a special education teacher here at Rock Island High School for the last 31 years. However, she has reached the point in her life where she is ready to retire, and take some time to relax after working so hard for Rocky over her career. After retirement, she plans to find another job, and travel to outdoor vacation settings.

Mrs. Magerkurth has been an educator for 36 years. During those 36 years, she has worked all around District 41, at multiple schools, as well as different districts in the state of Illinois. She explains, "I worked at an alternative junior high school in Springfield, IL. I worked as a high school special education teacher in Kankakee, IL. I was a special education teacher at Ridgewood Elementary School in Rock Island, IL. And, I worked at Rock Island High School as a special education vocational coordinator/teacher." During her time at Rocky, she stated her favorite memory was, "Watching students mature, learn, and grow. They leave much differently from when they come in as freshmen."

Mrs. Magerkurth wants students to remember that she truly does care about each and every one of them. She would like to leave with her parting words of, "You don't get what you wish for. You get what you work for." Thank you, Mrs. Magerkurth, for all that you've done during your time at Rocky. You will be deeply missed.



STIRBLING SAYS GOODBYE

After touching thousands of students' hearts, and starting medical futures for many, Mrs. Stribling has decided to say her goodbyes to the Rock. Throughout her 10 years here, she has built up Rocky's CNA program. Along with this, she has taught Medical Terminology and Exploring Medical Careers, two of these being dual credit courses. Mrs. Stribling says that her favorite aspect of working in education is, "Teaching the students, and watching them grow into health care professionals! I love to keep in touch with my students, and see where life takes them." Stribling's favorite memories at Rocky include, "One would be with every new class. I enjoy watching students start in the clinical setting to care for the residents. Seeing how caring and compassionate the students are for others is truly a blessing," Stribling explained.

Anyone who has ever had Mrs. Stribling can tell you that she is a very memorable teacher. She wants people to remember her like a quote in her classroom, which states, "People will forget what you said. People will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel."

Her plan after leaving Rocky is to take the Regional Professional Development Coordinator position at UnityPoint. When Mrs. Stribling officially retires, she plans to travel, and spend more time with her family. Mrs. Stribling and her positive energy will be missed at the Rock. The impact she has made will never be forgotten, and will always be appreciated. Mrs. Stribling made the Rock a better place. She wanted to leave this quote as her parting words, "How lucky I am to have something that makes saying goodbye so hard." - A.A. Milne.

RETIRING ROCKS

SAYING 'ADIEU' TO SOME OF THE TEACHERS AND STAFF THAT HELPED SHAPE RIHS.



"My car is a 2013 Subaru WRX named Subie. I traveled to Center Point, Iowa to get her."
- Jacob Stribling



"Lil' Mama is a 2001 Honda Civic. We got 11 people in the Civic, and went to McDonald's. It could barely go up the hill."
- Lucas Rettig



"I have a 2004 Lexus RX330, and her name is Alexis. There was one time when I had a Pepsi can in my cup holder, and I took a hard left turn, and the can spilled all in my cup holder, so I had a puddle of Pepsi in my car."
- Monty Murdock



"I have a 2009 Honda Accord, and his name is Barthalamew (Barthy, for short). One time, I was getting onto the Centennial Bridge, and someone else getting on didn't yield for me, but Barthy stopped in time, and saved us both!"
- Kenzie Grimmins



"My Kia's name is Casper, the friendly soul. It's a 2014 Kia Soul."
- Katie Kavanaugh



"It is a 2009 Kia Rio in black. It's name is Lucile. It already seems to have problems, but I love working on it with my dad to fix it."
- Ely Perez

ROCKY'S





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"It's a 1993 Nissan Maxima that I bought a year ago."

- Kierian Trahan



"My best friend, Ursula. She's a Suzuki, and she always whistles when I go fast."

- Grace Phares



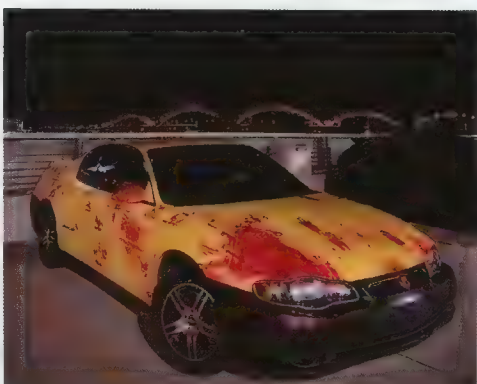
"My car's name is Dark Knight. It's a 2019 Honda Civic. The turbo charged engine almost gets me in an accident every day!"

- Aidan Henderson



"This is Ruby. She is a 2005 Ford Escape! My favorite memory with her is daily jam sessions, and surviving the pot holes of the Quad Cities."

- Lauren Gant



"It's a 2002 Monte Carlo. It's fast, but not fast enough."

- Tommy Honeycutt



"She's a Toyota Prius named Snowflake. One time she didn't turn on for two days..."

- Hede Reyes

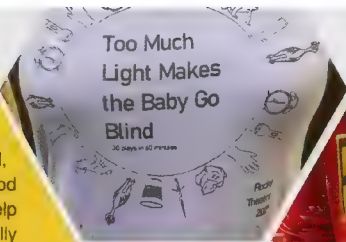




Game Recap.

During a cold, windy Sunday afternoon, the seniors and juniors went head to head in the nail biting Powderpuff Game. Despite the freezing weather, both teams played their hardest, but there could only be one winner. After a long, hard fight, the seniors took the victory! With the final score of 22-20, the seniors were filled with excitement. Win or lose, this is a memory the Rocks will remember. From cheering their teams on from the sideline, to running out on the field for the game winning stop, knowing the seniors' team took home the victory, this day will be one the upperclassmen will remember for a long time.

"I love Student Council, and I think donating blood is an amazing way to help your community. It's really nice to represent both of those things, and promote blood donation."
- Phoebe Fuller, 12



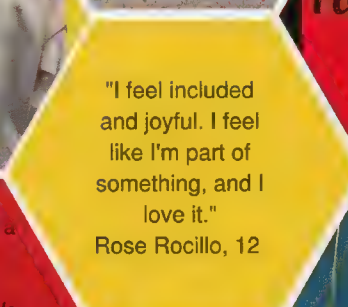
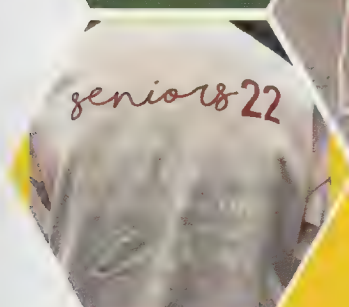
"To me, it means showing my support for the group I'm a part of, and my pride in the Drama Club."
- Addison VandeWalle, 12



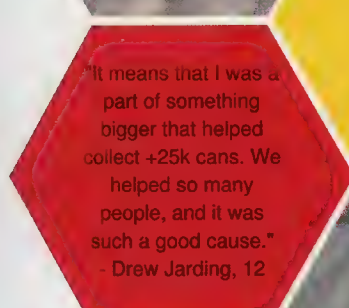
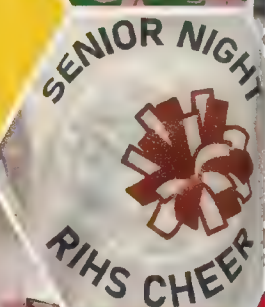
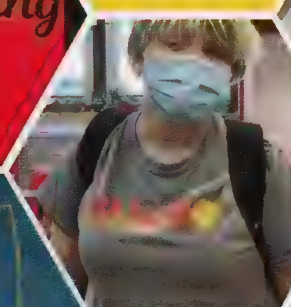
"It means a lot to me because it makes me feel like I'm a part of something with the team. We are all family, in a sense, and when I wear something that represents the team and our whole family, it just makes me feel good to know that everyone has each other's back."
- Cohen Crawford, 12



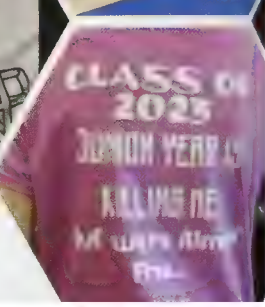
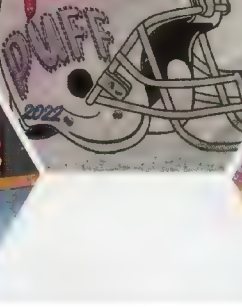
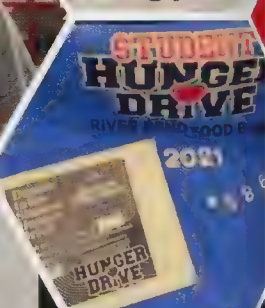
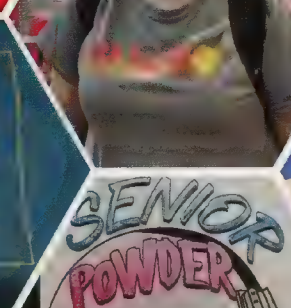
"To me, when I wear my choir merch, I feel proud and happy to be in choir. And, I'm proud of how we still stayed together during the pandemic."
Kara Baumunk, 12



"I feel included and joyful. I feel like I'm part of something, and I love it."
Rose Rocillo, 12



"It means that I was a part of something bigger that helped collect +25k cans. We helped so many people, and it was such a good cause."
- Drew Jarding, 12





"I want my students to know that I see them, I hear them, and support them."
- Mrs. Greenwood

"I love the idea of spreading positive messages to students, and showing them everyone is accepted and loved at RIHS."
- Mrs. Churchill

"I depend on the messages when I am feeling a bit down, and I like to discuss the quotes with my students. They need inspiration, too."

"The shirts I have worn each Tuesday were already a part of my wardrobe, and I would wear them all the time, so why not participate in a designated day to help build morale? GO team, GO!
- Mrs. Parer

"I think it's a great way to promote kindness, inclusion, diversity, mental health, and any positive message that lets students know we see them, and hear them."
- Mrs. Regan

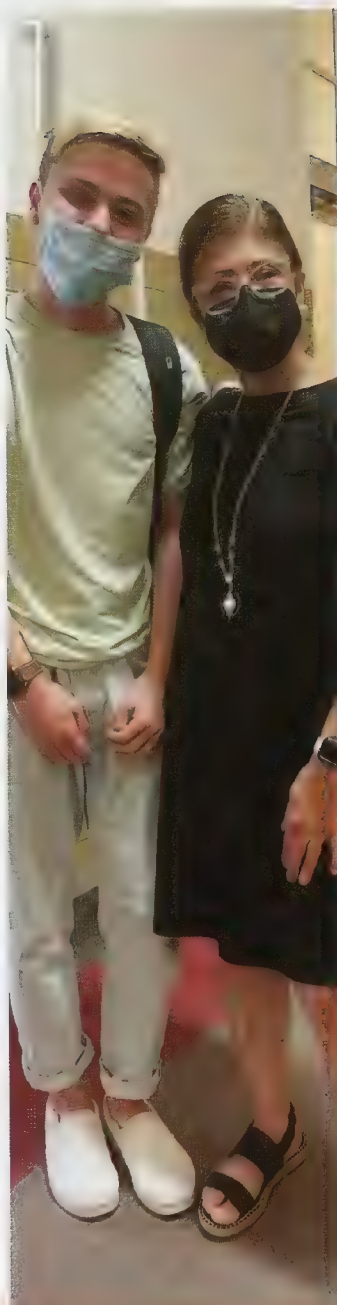
"The motivation was to let my students know I see them. I hear them, I care about them, and wearing a T-shirt is such a simple way to do that."
- Mrs. Young

"I think it's a great way for staff and students to share positive messages with each other. In a time like this, when so many people are divided on issues, it is important to remember that kindness, hard work, and inclusion should be universally accepted."
- Mrs. Mendeln

**T-SHIRT
TUESDAY**

SUPHERHEROES

STAFF



"Madame Bouchareb, because she is always happy, and whenever I walk into her class, she smiles and welcomes me, and it just makes my day better."

Aidan Henderson, 11



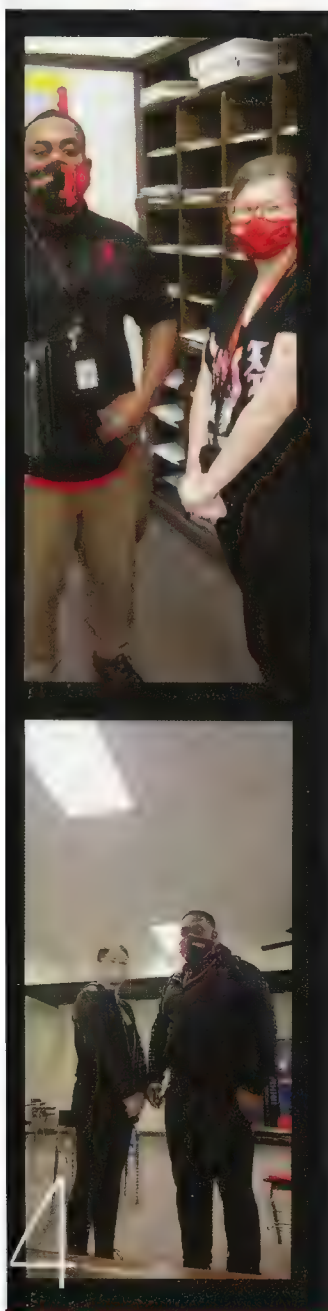
"Mrs. Benson, because without her, I wouldn't be able to play my viola, which is something I love to do."

Owen Dietz, 9



"Mr. Tollenaar because he has encouraged me to join marching band."

Dillon Gray, 10



"Mr. Pugh because he has always been there for me, and is able to gauge my mood, and could tell when I was upset before I even knew. He has always been willing to help students, and just be there if they needed to talk. He has always shown how much he cares about students inside and outside of school, and that made me feel important, and as if I mattered."

Sage Oviatt, 12



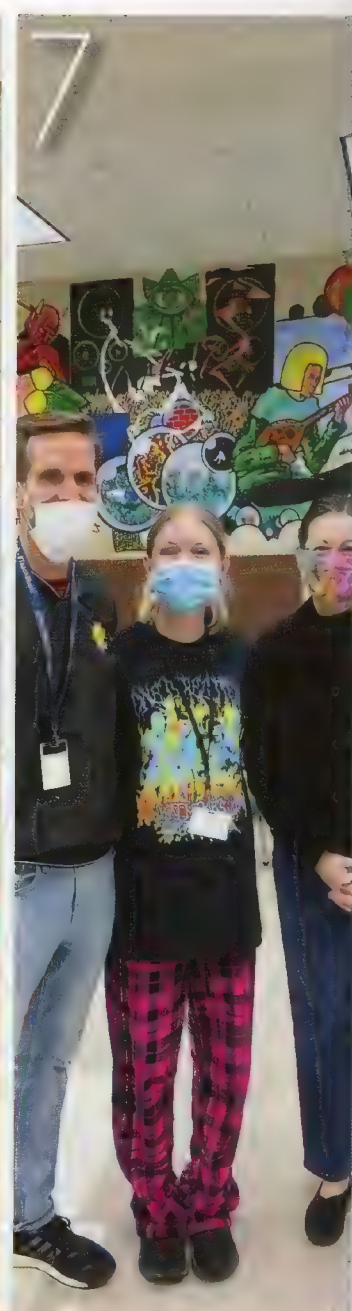
"Carlin has impacted my life by showing me leadership. He has taught me to be more outgoing and understanding. One thing he has told everyone is, 'Everything is on the other side of uncomfortable.' He taught me that you will get places if you truly understand and believe in it."

Alex Jackson, 10



"One of the ways Mrs. Vroman has impacted my life is by being a great coach, and bringing a sport to the school I enjoy."

Evan Lyon, 11



"Mr. Voigt and Mrs. Bolt because they both have helped me with my confidence in performing and singing."

Kara Baumunk, 12



Damian Hobert



Phoebe Fuller



Aldan Henderson



Ms. Miley

ROCK ISLAND HIGH SCHOOL PRESENTS...

HALLOWEEN



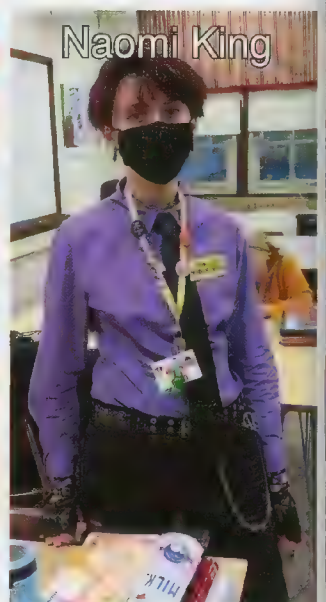
Kaiya McKinley
and Kenzie Crimmins



Nevaeh Bellamy



Kade McKillip



Naomi King

Happy FOR THE Holidays



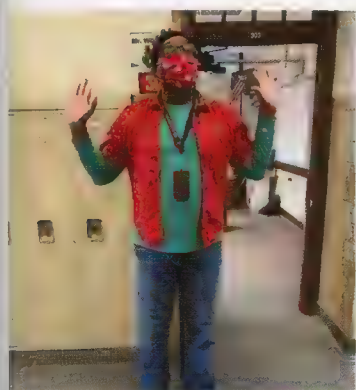
Charlotte Boyer wears a festive holiday sweater to stay warm and stylish this winter.



Ms. Miers and Mrs. Parer dressed head-to-toe for Christmas.



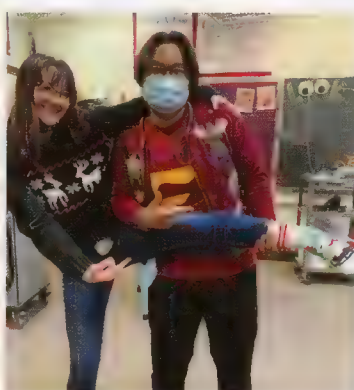
Ian Empen is looking dapper in his Christmas Suit he wore to the Winter band concert.



Mr. Williams is always dressed to the nines, but this Christmas look is a ten out of ten!



Georgi Feigley is feeling jolly in her joyful Christmas jumper.



Phoebe Fuller and Peh Lay: A couple of cool kids dressed up for Christmas!



Dylan Johnson is cozy, comfy, and Christmas-y in his holiday pajama pants.



Mrs. Davis is looking fly as a reindeer in her cute Christmas cardigan.



Construction started on August 25, 2021.



Rock Island Administration starts the ground breaking.



Two teachers, Mr. Mertel and Mrs. Young, pose by the construction site at the ground breaking.



Dr. Lawrence breaks ground for the start of construction.

CHANGES

How has your RIHS experience changed with the construction?

@ THE ROCK



"I wouldn't say my experience has changed, but I could say that it has been temporarily altered. Everyone has had to make adjustments and concessions to accommodate the work being done. My days are a little bit louder now, and sometimes, my classroom shakes a little bit. I just figure I am getting a free massage, and take advantage of the situation!"

- Mrs. Parer



"The construction is right outside my classroom, so it's been a bit noisier this year than usual. My windows were also removed in the fall to prepare for the new part of the building. I'm excited about the new space at Rocky, but I definitely miss seeing sunshine! My students and I have found new ways of decorating our temporary wall, so it has provided a fun talking point!"

- Ms. Miley



"So far, my experience hasn't changed that much, but it is going to change in May when the library will be shut down for the rest of the school year. Due to code regulations, a firewall has to be constructed in the library. Evidently, the square footage being added to the building makes this necessary. It's going to be a huge challenge to have no library during the month of May. Also, the new firewalls will require us to reimagine the library space. Mrs. Curtiss and I will do our best to continue to provide library services to Rocky students and staff in May."

- Mrs. Mendelin



"My experience hasn't really changed too much. One thing that has changed was my routes in school."

- Madison Chastain, 12



"My experience at Rocky has been on a roller coaster ride, so a little construction doesn't really change the experience I'm having at Rocky, besides walking around the construction, and being cold just for an extra 2 minutes."

- Xander George, 12

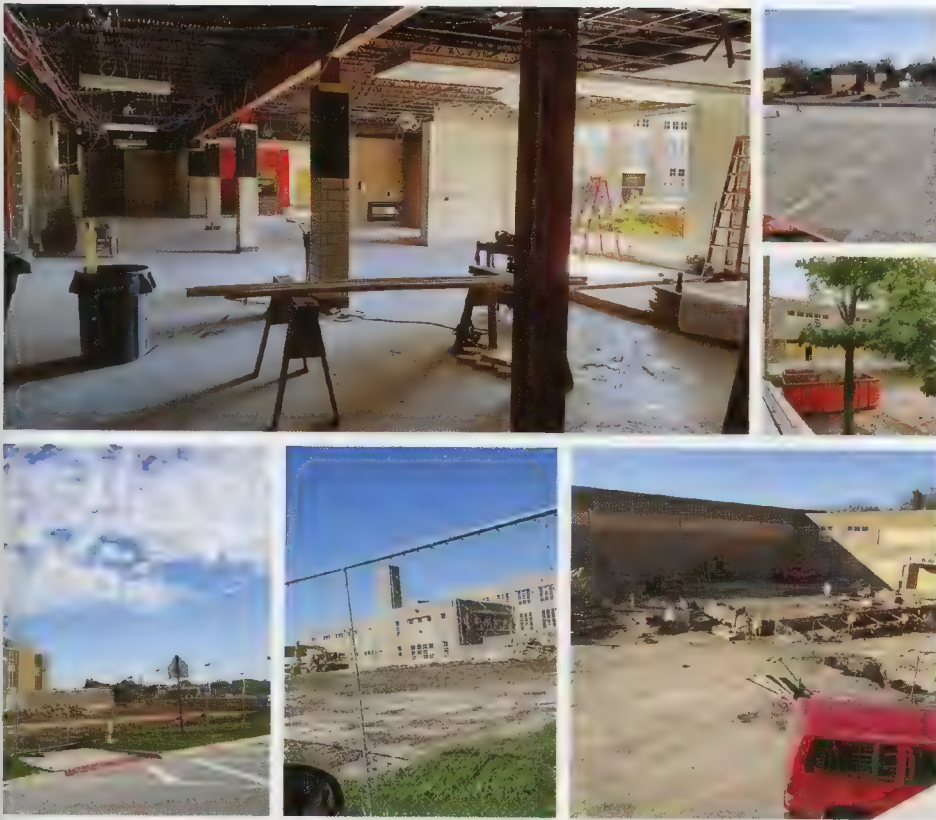


"Having construction while going to school was definitely difficult, and super cold at some points, but we worked around it, and got through it."

- Gabriella Taber, 12



Before



RECONSTRUCTING ROCKY

BUILDING A BETTER ROCK

Rock Island High School underwent construction during the 2021-2022 school year. Big changes are coming for students and staff. One of the first projects that was completed was the new staff parking lot, now located south of the small gym. Principal Jeff Whitaker stated that there will be, "A college student union, with a coffee shop, couches, and charging stations." This also includes "expanding and remodeling the cafeteria," Whitaker explained. Whitaker's plan is to create a "more inviting atmosphere, which will make students want to stay and hang out at school," he stated. Students and staff have had to adjust because of the construction, which means "rerouting" throughout the school day. He explained, "The lunchroom is cut in half," so students have to manage eating in a separate area. The changes also shut down Circle Drive, the usual entrance to the school. The changes being done are really going to make Rocky stand out from other schools. Whitaker stated, "I think we're already the best, but I think this is going to set us a part."



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A NOTE FROM THE YEARBOOK STAFF

To Our Readers:

The yearbook you are reading was created by a staff of roughly 14 juniors and seniors, some freshmen and sophomore volunteers, and one advisor. We made every attempt to produce an error free book, with all names spelled correctly. However, it is possible that we have made some unintentional errors.

Our yearbook staff met every day during 1st hour. Fueled by coffee, donuts, energy drinks (despite Ms. Miers' constant nagging), and Taylor Swift songs, the staff worked hard to finish this year's yearbook, and accurately show the story of Rocky students during the 2021-22 school year.

While we were almost back to a normal school year after dealing with the COVID-19 Pandemic, we still encountered some COVID related challenges. The staff worked through quarantines and adjusted pandemic protocols to create this book. They dealt with countless adjustments and uncertainty, and often took on additional yearbook pages to help make sure we completed the book on time.

To the parents and staff members who provided us with pictures (Mr. Williams, Shari Smiley, Melanie Putnam, and Jennifer Pendleton, to name a few), we thank you. You helped our staff more than you know, and we are grateful. To the yearbook staffers, thank you for working so hard to tell the many perspectives of the Rock. You are an exceptional staff, and your efforts are so appreciated. To the Rocky community, please enjoy this Watchtower, and know we did our best to tell this year's story of Rock Island High School.

- Ms. Miers & the Watchtower Staff

Watchtower, Volume 112, was produced by the Yearbook Staff at Rock Island High School in Rock Island, IL and was printed by Herff Jones, Inc. in Edwardsville, Kansas. The account was serviced by representative, Joelle Sexton, and customer service adviser, Jeannie Brown. The cover was designed by Nathan Anderson, and a Lascut was applied to the "RE" along with Blind UV gloss all other elements, front and back. Applied colors/foil included Gold & Red Foil on spine copy. The endsheets are four color litho printed on Vibratext White. The 2022 volume includes 200 pages in full color.

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Professional portraits were provided by Photographic Arts by GPI.
The 550 copies of the book were sold for \$45/\$50.

◀◀ ALMA MATER ▶▶

BY THE MIGHTY MISSISSIPPI, ON A ROCKY SHORE
STANDS THE SCHOOL WE LOVE SO DEARLY
NOW AND EVERMORE.

ALMA MATER, ALMA MATER, WE THY CHILDREN AS OF OLD
SING THY PRAISE IN SONG UNENDING
TO THE CRIMSON AND THE GOLD.

THOUGH THE FUTURE YEARS MAY PART US, STILL TOGETHER NOW,
FAITH AND LOVE TO OLD ROCK ISLAND EVERMORE WE VOW.

ALMA MATER, ALMA MATER, WE THY CHILDREN AS OF OLD
SING THY PRAISE IN SONG UNENDING
TO THE CRIMSON AND THE GOLD.

« Fight Song »

FIGHT ON ROCK ISLAND, WIN THIS GAME;

FIGHT FOR THE CRIMSON AND THE GOLD;

FIGHT TO THE END, ROCK ISLAND, FIGHT.

HER HONOR AND NAME UPHOLD.

SO, FIGHT ON YE SONS OF MEN, FIGHT ON;

PILE UP THE SCORE SKY HIGH;

FOR WINNING OR LOSING, LET OUR GOAL BE

LOYALTY TO OLD R.I.

KEEP UP YOUR COURAGE, LET'S SHOW OUR GRIT;

FIGHT TO THE END, FOR WE'LL NEVER QUIT;

THAT'S THE OLD ROCK ISLAND WAY.

SO, FIGHT ON YE SONS OF MEN, FIGHT ON;

PILE UP THE SCORE SKY HIGH;

FOR WINNING OR LOSING, LET OUR GOAL BE

LOYALTY TO OLD R.I.

REFRESH

READJUST

RESUME

REIMAGINE

REBUILD

REFLECT

RECRUIT